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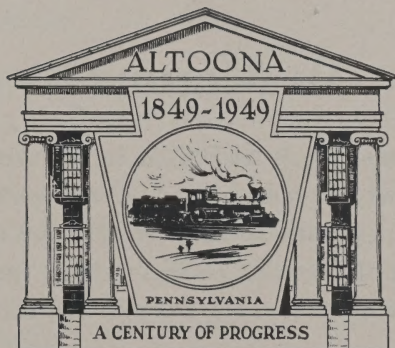
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ALTOONA'S *c Pa.* CENTENNIAL BOOKLET

Noteworthy Personages and Events
Altoona History
1849—1949



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THE NAME OF VETERAN OF WAR
OF
THE GREAT TRIBES



In Memory

This booklet is dedicated to the Altoona and Blair County honored dead of all wars. They made the supreme sacrifice so that we might live in peace and freedom today. May their names and deeds be enshrined forever in our memory.

1827201

Foreword

THIS Altoona Centennial Souvenir Booklet aims to give the story of the city of today with glances backward that form interesting and instructive links in coupling Altoona's present with the past. It is not supposed to be an absolutely complete and unabridged digest of all such facts. Good histories and books of every kind about Altoona and Blair County should be examined and drawn upon to fill out the picture of Altoona and vicinity.

The material here assembled is of a permanent and enduring character, and for a long time to come this historical booklet should serve as a convenient and helpful working tool for Altoonans of all ages whenever called upon or inclined to delve into the fascinating history of Altoona, Pennsylvania. It will not only be a time-saver but a spur to a fuller and more satisfying investigation.

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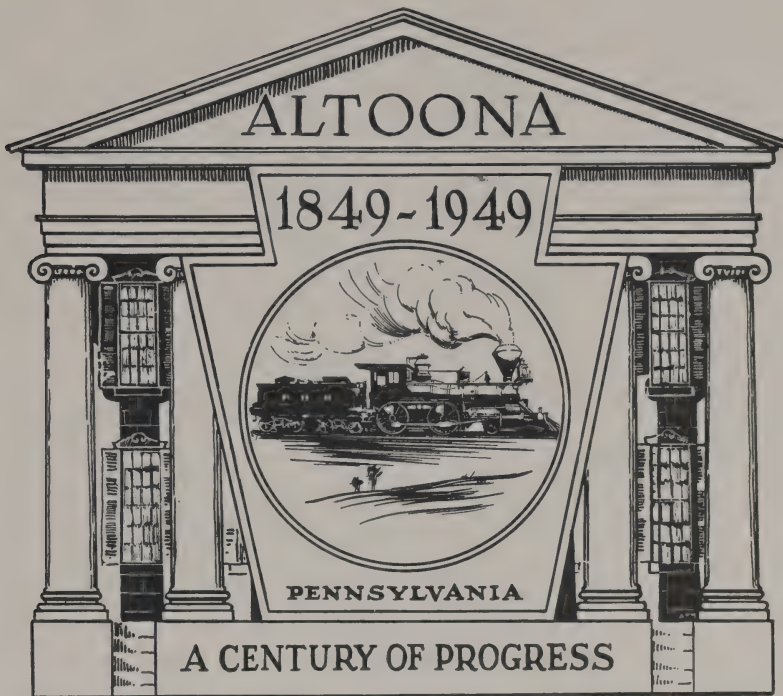
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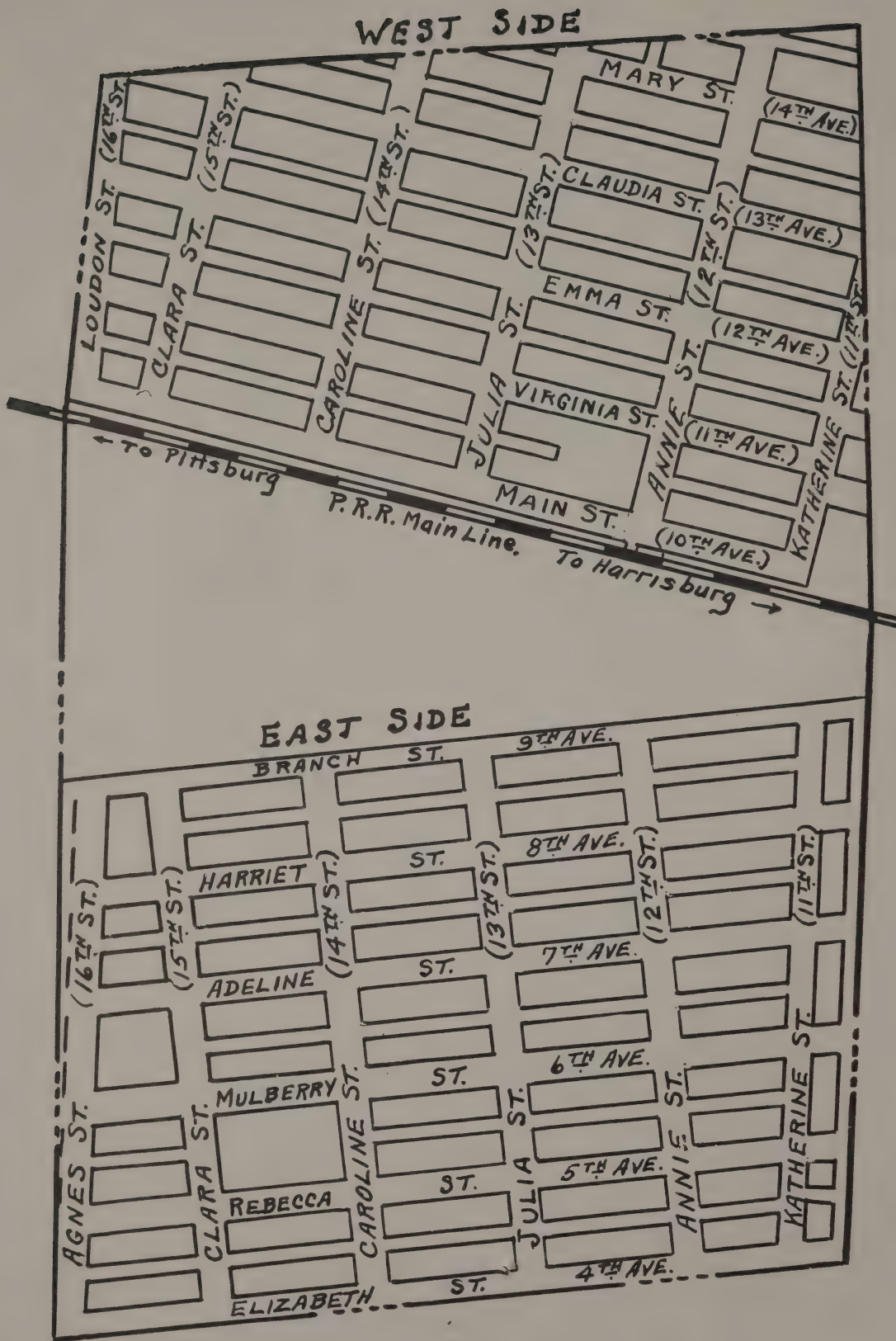
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Altoona In Retrospect

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Map of the City of Altoona recorded February 10, 1854.
G. H. Williams, Recorder.

Courtesy Paul A. Canty



Altoona, Pennsylvania

“Keystone City of the Keystone State”

By Richard E. Beeler

ALTOONA, Pennsylvania, from its inception 100 years ago has had a most romantic growth. From a very humble and modest beginning it has developed into one of Pennsylvania's greatest industrial beehives. Plotted and laid out in the year 1849, Altoona is this year in the one hundredth year of its existence. These hundred years form a most romantic period.

In the year 1849 a few little cleared patches of farms set in a wilderness, formed, with some of that wilderness itself, the site of what is now Altoona.

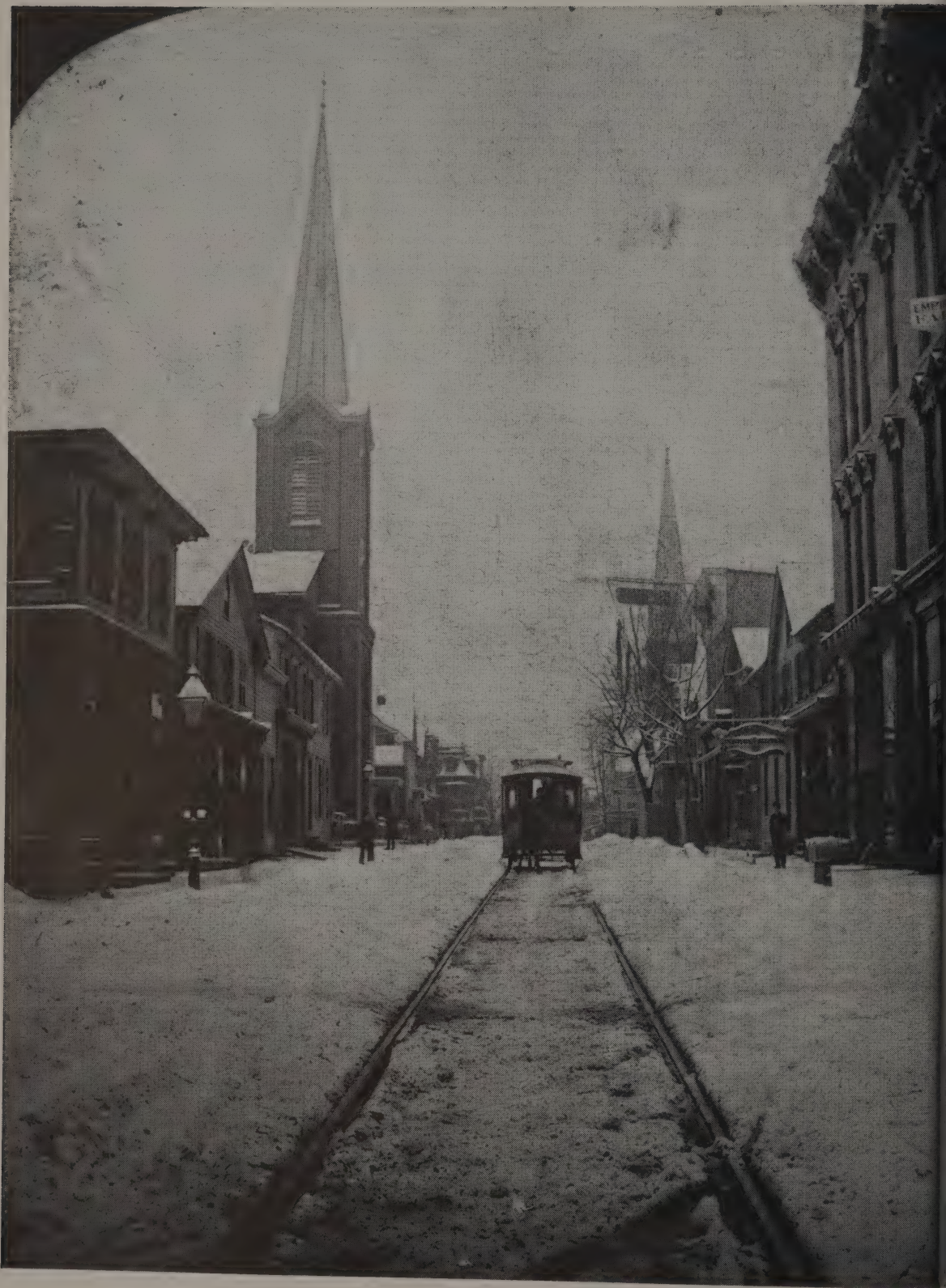
From out of the east, growing toward the clearings at the rate of a few hundred yards a day, came two lines of slender steel. In 1850 these little strips of steel had grown until they reached the settlement at the eastern base of the Allegheny Mountains. The tiny settlement did not yet have a name.

To this little settlement came a band of sturdy immigrants, native Americans, Germans, Irish and Scotch, all with the pioneering instinct. They came to join the great adventure. They were Forty-niners as truly as were the gold seekers who went to California.

But these Pennsylvania Forty-niners sought more than mere gold. They had their adventure, with its hardships and its privation, but while they were adventuring they were carving out homes for themselves in a crude mountain country.

Altoona was created by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and the lines of steel that were being laid from the east formed the first track of what became the greatest railroad system on earth.

The 224 acres of farm and woodland, on which the original Altoona was built, and which is now principally included between Eleventh and Sixteenth Streets and Fourth and Fourteenth Avenues, constituted the farm of David Robeson.



Courtesy W. D. Kuhn

Eleventh Avenue looking west from Fourteenth Street in the early 80's, showing a horse car coming down the avenue.

The railroad company, then pushing to completion its line from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, and looking for a site for their shops, decided that this location was ideal.

Archibald Wright of Philadelphia, acting presumably for the railroad company, purchased the Robeson farm for \$11,000. The deed was dated April 24, 1849, and is recorded in the register and recorder's office in Hollidaysburg. On this tract of land original Altoona was laid out and the first units of the railroad shops were built during the latter part of 1849 and 1850.

Adjoining the Altoona plot at that time was the John McCartney farm on the northwest, the McCormick and Andrew Green farms on the northeast, the William Bell farm on the southeast and the William Loudon farm on the southwest.

The Loudon and Green farms were soon after plotted and offered for sale in building lots, and later all the McCartney and most of the Bell farms were sold the same way.

Stories differ as to how Altoona received its name. But, after years of research and careful study of all the facts concerning Altoona's name, the Blair County Historical Society issued a bulletin in November, 1944, stating the name Altoona was derived from the beautiful, liquid and expressive Cherokee word "Allatoona." The name was bestowed by Archibald Wright, who was long a resident of the Cherokee country in Georgia and an admirer of the musical names of that Indian language. "Allatoona" literally means the "high lands of great worth" in the Cherokee language. Upon the christening a Mr. Kneass is said to have suggested that the name was too long and it was shortened to Altoona by omitting the second syllable.

The railroad was completed from the east in 1850, single track, on practically the same line as now, and extended from here to New Portage Junction, and from there trains were taken over the mountain on the Old Portage, a state institution completed in 1833 and operated in connection with the canal.

The Altoona passenger station stood near the corner of Ninth Avenue and Twelfth Street until 1854, when the Pittsburgh division was completed past Kittanning Point on its present line and a new depot was built at its present location. The present structure was built in 1887. The Logan House was built by the railroad company in 1854-55, and at the time it was greatly out of proportion to the little town in which it stood.

No lots were sold in the new town until 1851, and the first deed made as the records at Hollidaysburg show, was February 11, 1851, for two lots on the corner of Twelfth Avenue and Thirteenth Street to the First Presbyterian Church, price \$100 for the two.

The first residence in Altoona was of course the old Robeson farmhouse which was of logs and stood within the square bounded by Tenth and Eleventh Avenues and Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets.

The first building erected after Altoona was laid out was a rough board one to be used as an office for the railroad contractor and a boarding house for the men. It was located near the old farmhouse.



Courtesy Brehman's Art Studio, Williamsburg
 Eleventh Avenue looking west from Eleventh Street in the early 90's.



Courtesy of Fred Schenk
 The Stehle House, formerly Schenk House, 1118 Eleventh Avenue. Built in 1855 by Joseph and Caroline Schenk; sold in 1865 to John Stehle. Removed from the avenue in 1885.

Beginning in 1851 lots sold rapidly and buildings went up on every side; the new town grew so fast that early in 1854 when but a little over three years old it was incorporated as a borough with a population of about 2,000 people. Churches and schools were built, hotels, stores and a bank were opened, a newspaper was started in 1855 and everything prospered from the very start. A plot laid out by Andrew Green, northeast of Eleventh Street and called Greensburg, comprising the section below Eleventh Street, was taken into the borough in 1855.

The firm of Adlum and Ervin built the first store building in 1849. John Loudon began business as a merchant August 18, 1850, on the corner of Eleventh Avenue and Fourteenth Street, and Clement Jaggard in 1851 on Tenth Avenue.

Samuel Ettinger was the first clothing merchant, George W. Kessler the first druggist, William O'Donnell the first hardware merchant and Mangus Bender the first coal dealer. Henry A. Sellers in 1852 put up a building at 1408 Eleventh Avenue where he kept store and the Postoffice. Other early merchants were James Lowther, William McDowell, John Morrow, J. B. Hileman, C. B. Sink, George Ferree, S. Yingling, John M. Bush, John A. Smith, Mr. Berkowitz and Enos M. Jones.

John B. Westley was the first carpenter and builder. He put up a house in the fall of 1849 for Mr. Worrall, a railroad construction engineer, on Fourteenth Street, between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues. Richard Smith was the first tailor, Nick Agnew and Samuel Yingling the first butchers, one Weiss the first baker and Christian Baish and Stephen Winters the first tinnners.

The first lawyer was William Stokes, though he did not long remain. He was followed by Louis W. Hall and Colonel Daniel J. Neff. Rev. Henry Baker, pastor of the First Lutheran Church, was the first clergyman. The church had been located in Collinsville before the city was laid out. Dr. Gabriel Thomas was the first physician. Howard Larcomb was the first telegrapher and Albert Schultz established the first brewery.

The first tavern stood on the site of the White Hall Hotel, where the Bell Telephone building now stands. It was built by George Huff in 1850. James Kearney built the Red Lion about the same time.

The first bank was established by the firm of Bell, Johnston, Jack & Co., of which William M. Lloyd was a member. About 1857 Mr. Lloyd acquired the chief interest and the name was changed to William M. Lloyd & Company.

The streets were at first given feminine Christian names. A few of the names by which the streets were then known are as follows: Eleventh Avenue, Virginia Street; Twelfth Avenue, Emma Street; Thirteenth Avenue, Claudia Street; Fourteenth Avenue, Maria Street; Third Avenue, Elizabeth Street; Fifth Avenue, Rebecca Street; Sixth Avenue, Helen Street; Seventh Avenue, Adeline Street, and Eighth Avenue, Harriet Street.

Ninth Avenue was known as Branch Street; Tenth Avenue first as Railroad Street and later as Main Street; Chestnut Avenue as Lombaerdt



Courtesy Mrs. Emil W. Schmitt

One of Altoona's first cigar factories, in the early 80's, located on Bridge Street. Reading left to right, Mr. Fred Schmitt, Mr. Irvin (Jim) Bitner and Mr. Michael Schmitt.



Courtesy Pennsylvania Railroad

Tenth Avenue looking east from Thirteenth Street in the early 80's.

Street; Lexington Avenue, Chestnut Street; Howard Avenue, Hickory Street; Fourth Street as Hester Street; Seventh Street as Logan Street; Ninth Street as Allegheny Street; Tenth Street as Grant Street; Eleventh Street as Catherine Street; Twelfth Street as Annie Street; Thirteenth as Julia; Fourteenth as Caroline; Fifteenth as Clara; Sixteenth as Loudon Street.

The census of 1860 showed the borough's population to be 3,591. Throughout the Civil War the place grew and continued to thrive, and soon thereafter the agitation started to procure a city charter.

Altoona's city charter was produced in February, 1868, the bounds being extended so as to take in the territory northwest of First Street, southeast to First Avenue, southwest to Twenty-seventh Street and northwest to Eighteenth Avenue, with a population exceeding 8,000. In 1870 the census takers found 10,610 people here.

By this time there were three newspapers in Altoona, two banks, thirteen churches, numerous good hotels, large machine and car shops, and in 1872 the Altoona Iron Company was established and its works put in operation. At the same time the railroad company purchased a large tract of ground along Chestnut Avenue below Seventh Street and the car shops were erected at First to Fourth Streets. In 1872 the city acquired the water plant and built the first reservoir at Kittanning Point, bringing the water to the city through a twelve inch line.

The years 1870, 1871 and 1872 were fruitful of many new enterprises in the city, but the panic of 1873 put a damper on many business undertakings and retarded the city's growth for some time. Nevertheless, by 1880 the population had reached 19,710.

In 1880 the first telephone exchange was established, a street car line with horse drawn cars was opened on July 4, 1882, and an electric company was formed in 1886.

The silk mill was erected in 1888-89 and in 1891 electric power was applied to the street car system.

In 1889-90 the Pennsylvania Railroad was again obliged to enlarge its plant, and purchased a large tract of land at Juniata, where it erected extended locomotive works, the expansion of which has steadily progressed.

On May 1, 1895, a paid fire department superseded the volunteers in the work of protecting the city from the ravages of fire.

From time to time the boundaries of the city have been enlarged until it has more than doubled in size. From the time of its birth it has been like the bud of a flower—growing, expanding and unfolding new beauties, and its development has been continuous and phenomenal.

In 1849 this wilderness became a village, later a town, then a city, and now, behold: A city of over 82,000 inhabitants, bustling with industry, beaming with intelligence, alive to twentieth century methods, modern in its every makeup, one of the finest of all the hives of industry on earth—this we call Altoona.



Courtesy Pennsylvania Railroad

The Altoona Shops of the Pennsylvania Railroad and a part of Altoona. Time about 1853.



The Pennsylvania Railroad In Altoona

1849 - 1949

A CENTURY ago the founders of the Pennsylvania Railroad foresaw the westward expansion of this country and immediately laid plans for an all rail route from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh. Philadelphia was the center of culture, business and industry of a growing nation. Pittsburgh, with its strategic location in the heart of the coal fields, close to the charcoal iron industry, and with its water gateway to the Ohio and Mississippi valleys, promised to be a hub of industry and the focal point of east-west commerce.

The story of how their plan met with the approval of the leaders of the Commonwealth and the interested city of Philadelphia is not our immediate concern here. It is sufficient to remember that the eminence of Philadelphia in the financial and commercial life of this country was, at the time, being seriously challenged by New York, which city always had the tremendous advantage of one of the finest harbors in the world. The building of the Erie Canal, another serious challenge by New York, had been ineffectually met by Pennsylvania in the building of a system of railroads, canals and inclined planes known as the Main Line of Public Works, which was State owned and State operated. This system of communication between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh never proved satisfactory, in that it was not only costly and slow, but service had to be discontinued much of the time due to floods in spring and ice in winter. The "bottleneck" of the inclined planes so limited the volume of traffic that could be handled, that shippers in the west were discouraged from using it and diverted much of their business to the New York route.

Realizing, in less than four years of operation, that the Main Line of Public Works was not the answer to the State's transportation problem, surveys for a possible rail route between Harrisburg and Pittsburgh (connecting with a rail line already in operation between Philadelphia and Harrisburg) had been ordered by the State Canal Commission. Three possible routes were found by their engineer, Charles L. Schlatter. It was not surprising then that the founders of the Pennsylvania Railroad found the State interested when they appealed for a charter to build a railroad over one of these routes, and the Legislature passed an act incorporating the Pennsylvania Railroad Company on April 13, 1846, and a charter was granted shortly thereafter.

John Edgar Thomson, who had been made Chief Engineer of the new company, carefully studied the routes and selected the central or Juniata-Conemaugh River route proposed by Schlatter.

It is of primary concern to the city of Altoona to note here that its existence is the direct result of Mr. Thomson's keen foresight, not only as



Courtesy Pennsylvania Railroad
 Pennsylvania Railroad station and train shed in the early days.



Courtesy Pennsylvania Railroad
 Eleventh Avenue and Thirteenth Street, looking east before Altoona's downtown streets were paved.

an engineer, but also as a railroad operating man. Mr. Thomson agreed with Schlatter that the general course of the railroad should follow the course of the Juniata River. He saw also that communication should be established with the Portage Railroad at Hollidaysburg in order to provide a mountain passage until such time as the new road could be completed. However, he disagreed with the Schlatter plan for the actual mountain crossing. The original plan called for maintaining a limited gradient over the entire route. Mr. Schlatter reasoned that, since the maximum grade on the Philadelphia-Columbia railroad was forty-five feet to the mile, his route over the mountain, if not exceeding that figure, would permit the same locomotives to haul the trains throughout the entire route, and he planned his mountain crossing accordingly. Mr. Thomson, being a practical operating man, saw the advantage of low grades over the major portion of the route over which heavy traffic could be moved rapidly and economically, and then concentrating the heavier grades within a short distance where locomotives could be added and the summit surmounted without great difficulty or loss of time. By following a line from Tyrone to Sugar Run gap, the road would arrive at a point close to the Portage railroad, and at the same time locate the best line for crossing the mountain.

It was apparent from the outset of the project that the operation of this mountain division of the railroad would of necessity require that a considerable amount of additional enginepower be concentrated at a convenient location. The site for housing and repairing this additional motive power was logically chosen at the point where the water grade ended and the grades of the mountain passage began, a point known as Robinson's Ridge and the present site of the city of Altoona. Here, in 1849, a tract of land, the middle of three farms, was purchased for railroad use and the erection of the first shop building the following year began the growth of the modest embryo, which has come to be the largest group of railroad shops in the world.

Fathered by the drive of Vision and mothered by railroad operating Necessity, the city of Altoona was born. Unlike other budding communities of that day it was no mere child of convenience. Other city and town sites were chosen mainly for reasons of convenience; river sites provided waterways of access; convenient clearings on high ground offered means of natural drainage and protection from rains and floods; proximity to fuel and water supplies offered inducement to weary settlers searching, after a long day's journey, for a place to camp and perhaps erect their permanent homes and till the surrounding land into rich farms. The Altoona site was none of these, it was the deliberate logical choice of keen, farsighted and resourceful engineers who knew exactly what they were doing and, ignoring the coincidence of the scenic beauty of the location, purposefully chose the point according to the topography of the surveyed route where the necessities of railroading could best be served.

By 1850 the construction of the eastern section of the railroad reached the site of the Robeson farm and, since the exact line for crossing the mountain had not been decided, continued along what is now Ninth Avenue toward Hollidaysburg where temporary service over the mountain could be carried on by means of the Portage Railroad. At Tenth Street, a line, which was later to become the main line, branched off at an angle of twenty-one degrees and followed a course which was to connect it with



Courtesy Pennsylvania Railroad

Residence of the P.R.R. Superintendent of Motive Power and the General Superintendent of the P.R.R. This house was located on Eleventh Avenue between Twelfth and Thirteenth Streets, and was built in the early days of the railroad.



Courtesy Pennsylvania Railroad

East side of Eleventh Avenue near Thirteenth Street in the early days of Altoona.

the Sugar Run route to the Gallitzin tunnel. The triangle formed by these two lines and what is now Fifteenth Street was laid out as the original shop grounds. The remaining railroad property was marked off into streets and building sites. The Ninth Avenue side, called East Altoona, had streets at right angles to avenues parallel with the railroad leading to Hollidaysburg, and the Tenth Avenue side, called West Altoona, had streets laid in similar relation to the other line of the railroad. The intended symmetry of the town plan was destroyed, however, when the neighboring farmers, in laying out their grounds into building sites, entered into disputes which prevented the original plan from being continued beyond the borders of the railroad property. The result is a present day traffic problem that defies solution, short of rebuilding large areas of the city.

The first railroad station in Altoona was a small frame structure on Ninth Avenue at Twelfth Street. Here, the railroad traffic into Altoona and what little passed on to Hollidaysburg and the Portage Railroad was handled until February 15, 1854, when a new two-story brick structure, erected at Tenth Avenue and Thirteenth Street, was opened for business over the newly completed main line via the Horseshoe Curve and Gallitzin. In 1887 the present station building, affording larger quarters, was erected on the same site.

While the basic structure of this latter building has remained unchanged, its facilities have undergone several readjustments and modifications designed to meet the changing requirements of the service. In recent years the ticket office has been relocated and enlarged and headquarters have been established in this building for a Bus Terminal Office which serves the major bus lines linking the surrounding communities with the railroad facilities.

The construction of shop buildings started in 1850 and by the time the main line was completed over the mountain, the group consisted of a half-round car erecting shop, east of and tangent to the line of Twelfth Street, and a long one-story building extending west from the line of Twelfth Street in which were housed a locomotive erecting shop and such auxiliary facilities, including a foundry and blacksmith, machine, wood-working and paint shops as were necessary to support the locomotive and car work to be done. By 1855 the shops had been extended until they were one thousand feet long by seventy feet wide and there were at the western end of the group, two enginehouses, one of which may be remembered by our oldest citizens as the only completely covered enginehouse on the railroad, was located near Fourteenth Street and was six hundred feet in circumference and ninety feet high, completely roofed by a gigantic dome.

During this period the Altoona shops were engaged in building cars and iron bridges. The locomotive work was restricted to repairs and rebuilding of locomotives that had been purchased from private builders, for it was not until 1866 that Altoona was to produce its own locomotive.

On a site along the main line of the railroad between the station and Twelfth Street, the railroad company built the Logan House in order to provide the traveler with the best accommodations for a break in the journey from Philadelphia to the west. This "mansion in the wilderness," completed in 1855, was pronounced by an intelligent English traveler at that time as being "better than any in Europe and equal to any in America." It was designed to satisfy the keen appetite of the traveler in the most luxurious manner and stood as a welcome oasis until it was razed in



Courtesy Pennsylvania Railroad
First locomotive built in Altoona P. R. R. Shops in 1866.



Courtesy Altoona Chamber of Commerce
The first streamlined locomotive on the Pennsylvania Railroad and built in the Altoona works.

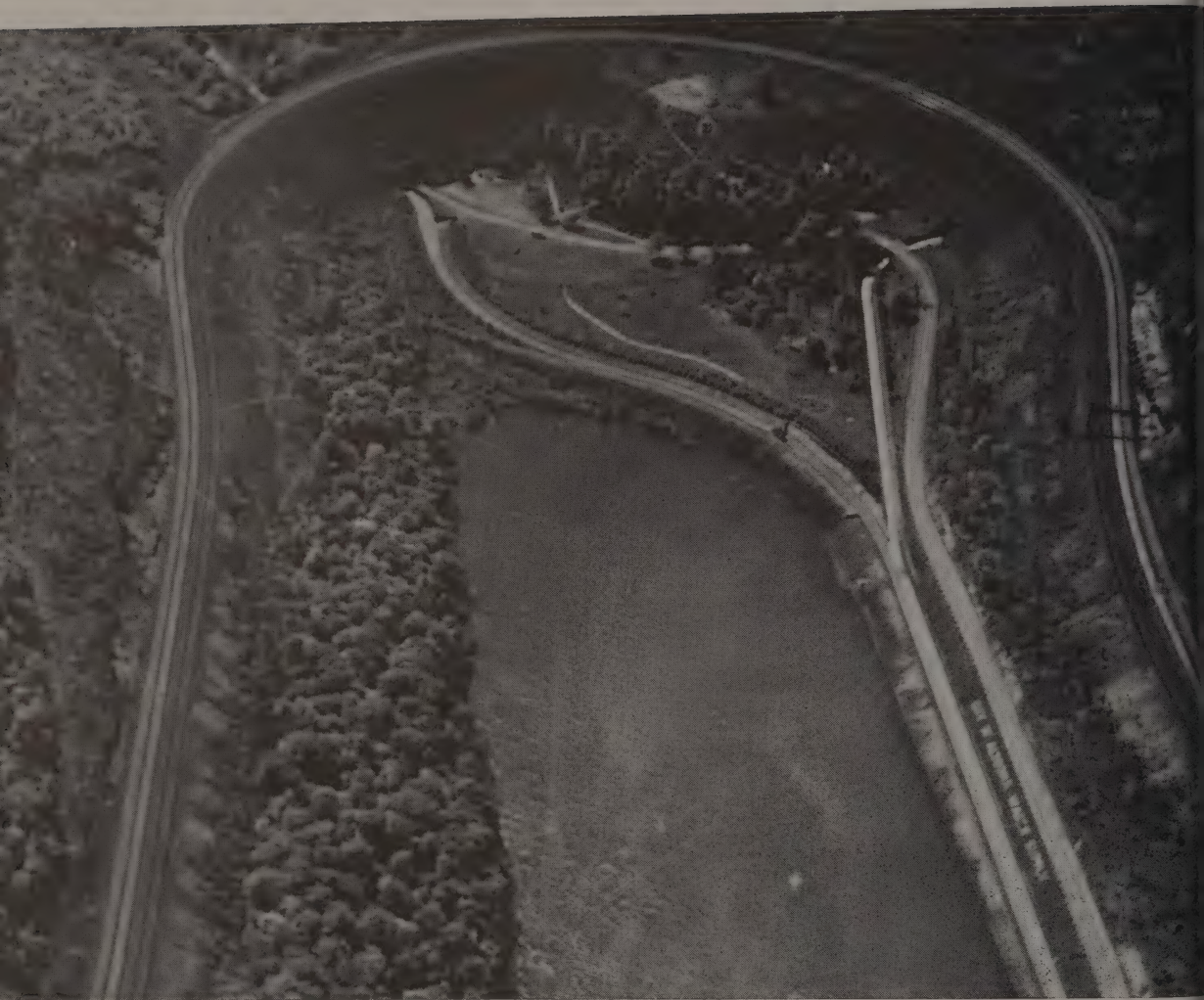
1932. The Logan House enjoyed a seventy-seven-year history, marked with notable occasions in the life of the city, the railroad and the nation. Many important meetings were held there and many famous people graced its halls. Altoona was a vital link in the important chain of railroad networks binding the northern states together during the Civil War. It was therefore quite fitting that the Logan House should be selected as a meeting place for the Conference of Loyal War Governors in September, 1862, a meeting which marked one of the turning points of that great conflict.

During the first years of its operation the demands for railroad travel greatly exceeded expectations and the work in the shops increased accordingly. The original shops in the Twelfth Street area had been expanded at a rapid pace, particularly in 1858 after the Pennsylvania Railroad had acquired the Main Line of Public Works by purchase from the State. By 1869 the work load had reached such proportions that it was decided to divorce the car from the locomotive work, acquire a new site and erect an independent car shop, leaving the original plant exclusively engaged in locomotive work. Accordingly a large tract of land between the railroad and Chestnut Avenue and below Seventh Street was purchased and the Altoona Car Shops were erected between First and Fourth Streets and completed in the following year.

The opening of separate car shops in 1870 provided temporary relief to the overtaxed facilities of the Twelfth Street group. The old shops were converted exclusively to locomotive work and with some further expansion within its own limits proved adequate to meet the requirements for twenty years. In 1889 a saturation point in the work load was reached and it was again found necessary to expand in shop area. The Juniata group lying east of the car shops was started that year and completed in 1890. The facilities of this new plant were immediately pressed into service to carry on the work of building new locomotives.

By 1855 the shops had grown large enough to employ a force of one thousand men and all indications pointed to greater expansion in the future. It was one problem to erect large workshops in the heart of a wilderness, but it was quite another to foster a city along with it. To attract, obtain and keep a force of men needed to run the shops, located as they were in a town utterly devoid of attractions other than the church and the tavern, was quite a task. If the requirements of the railroad service were to be met, Altoona had to become more than a large construction camp; culture and all the normal requirements of community life had to be satisfied. From the Company's sustained efforts along this line have come some institutions for cultural development, amusement, welfare and protection from which all have benefited and some of which exist even to the present day.

It was both instinctive and plain good business sense that our ancestors early guarded against fire. From the very beginning the clang of the fire bell and the scream of the whistle brought out the hand-drawn cart and the red shirts and boots. The efforts of railroad men and of railroad money, both directly and indirectly, formed and supported the early volunteer fire companies for the protection of town and shop. That this support continues is evidenced by the fact that there are still two fire stations on railroad land, equipped completely and almost entirely manned by employes of the company, and which function reciprocally with the city fire department.



Courtesy Altoona Ch

An amazing photograph of the Horseshoe Curve taken from the air.

One of the first demands of society was music for entertainment, parades and picnics. This requirement was attended to promptly for in 1853 the Pennsylvania Railroad fostered the Altoona City Band, the oldest and probably the most famous musical organization in town. Besides being invited to play at presidential inaugurals it was in constant demand locally and band concerts in the stand on the Logan House lawn were a regular summer night feature for many years.

The razing of the Mechanic's Library building in May of this year recalls a cultural institution almost entirely supported by the railroad for nearly seventy years. The Altoona Mechanic's Library and Reading Room Association was organized in 1858 and for several years occupied a railroad building at Eleventh Avenue and Thirteenth Street, when it moved to the second floor of the ticket office. It remained there until 1885 when its growth caused its removal to larger quarters in the Logan House Annex. In 1900 the old Presbyterian Church on Eleventh Avenue was taken over and housed the collection until 1926 when the seventy-five thousand volumes were turned over to the Altoona School District. This organization brought to Altoona many distinguished lecturers on subjects of not only technical, but also of general interest to all who desired to attend its meetings.

Concerned with the welfare of the shopmen and their families the railroad joined with the prominent citizens of the town in procuring a hospital. When their efforts were rewarded by a grant of money and a charter by the Pennsylvania legislature in 1883, the Company donated four and one-quarter acres of land along Howard Avenue for a site. Since the hospital was opened in 1885 the railroad has made annual cash appropriations for its upkeep and from the first year of its existence up to and including the present time, railroad officials have figured prominently in making up its board of trustees, and have entered whole-heartedly in efforts for improvement and expansion over the years.

In recording the part the railroad played in developing the social interests of the town the Cricket Field must figure prominently. When the name of this famous old playing field is mentioned the reaction of the reader usually varies with his age. The teen-ager thinks at once of night football or junior league baseball and possibly of the annual horse show, and of but little else. To his parents come recollections of the Works baseball teams, the Homestead Grays, Babe Ruth, the old Clerk's League and perhaps the huge System Meets. Few are living who can recall the playing of cricket on the field and the adjacent property. A few Englishmen and some English capital figured prominently in early days of the Pennsylvania Railroad. It is apparent that some of them came to Altoona and introduced that popular English sport here and played it on the plot of ground east and north of Seventh Street and Chestnut Avenue. Mechanics, clerks, officials and apprentices, and a student or two, made up the teams which played matches with the cricket clubs at Merion, Germantown and Philadelphia. The Altoona Cricket Club was formed in 1878 and a small club house was built. This building which has served in turn cricket, golf, tennis, baseball and football enthusiasts, stands in right center field of the presently used area.

When the interest in cricket was finally lost to the game of golf it was found necessary to move activities to the farm lying east of First Street where a nine hole course had been laid out and where the Seventh



Courtesy Pennsylvania Railroad
The Altoona Cricket Club, located east of First Street on the west side of the city and built in 1878 by the Pennsylvania Railroad; the scene of many social activities.



Courtesy Pennsylvania Railroad
Twelfth Street bridge, Logan House and station. Photo taken from the Cab and Pilot shop. Bridge of wrought iron built in the early days by the railroad, and is still standing.

Ward dwellings would be less endangered by hooks and slices. Here a small locker house was built and served its intended purpose until blown away during a thunderstorm in 1905. The building was replaced by a permanent club house which for thirty years served not only as a club house, but also as a center of many social activities.

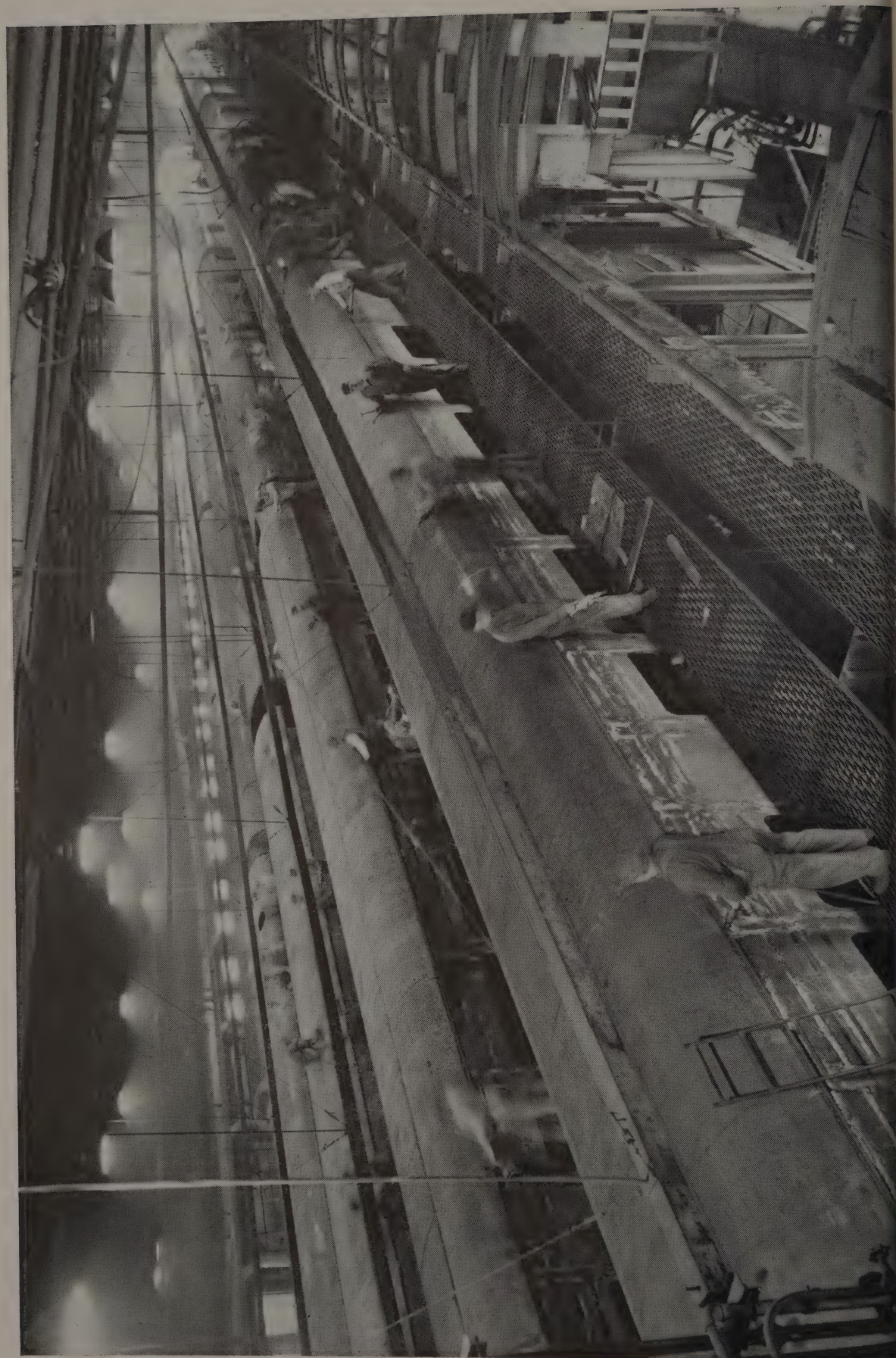
In the meantime the original Cricket Field did not lie in idleness. Tennis and baseball found a center of activity at the old location. The tennis activities came to warrant the sanction of the United States Lawn Tennis Association, and baseball there attained both local importance and formed the climax of the huge System Athletic Meets.

While aiding in the development of a city, the Company was primarily engaged in the ever-expanding task of providing adequate shop facilities for servicing the demands of the rapidly growing railroad system. It was ever mindful of technological improvements that were being made during this period when the machine age was coming into its own. It was constantly alert to findings in metallurgy, in chemistry and in electricity. The invention of the telephone did not go unnoticed as a means of speeding up the operation of the railroad and of the large plant which served it here.

The telephone had been invented in 1876 by Alexander Graham Bell, and shortly thereafter two of his assistants, Hubbard and Watson, came to Altoona to give the telephone a trial in the shops and to study the possible uses of the new instrument here. Tests were conducted, which resulted in the installation of a "private line" on May 21, 1877. This was the first use of the telephone in railroading, a use that has since expanded to a point where more than half of all the railroad mileage of this country is now operated by telephone service. By 1882 there were twenty-one telephones in the shops. Meanwhile, the Altoona Telephone Company came into existence under the partnership of R. M. Bailey and Chester Wilson, both of whom were connected with the telegraph operations of the railroad. The railroad requested the Altoona Telephone Company to install a ten-line switchboard, and this facility was set up in September of 1882. In March of 1886 arrangements were made between the Altoona Telephone Company and the Pennsylvania Railroad to share in the cost of building a pole line and establishing free telephone service for the Altoona Hospital with the hospital phone to be on the Altoona Exchange, and at night to be connected through the Motive Power Exchange to the Depot Master's office.

Further railroad-telephone history was written in Altoona when, on August 28, 1907, the Pennsylvania Railroad made a decided departure in its method of calling Middle Division crews. At this time one hundred sixty-five caller's telephones were placed into service in what was known as the First Calling District, covering the area from Seventh to Seventeenth Streets and from First to Ninth Avenues, in which there resided approximately two hundred trainmen. The experiment proved so successful that within a few months the Telephone Company was requested to equip a Second Calling District with two hundred and twenty telephones, covering the area from Kettle to Seventh Streets and from First to Ninth Avenues.

Altoona, through her connection with the railroad, figured into the early efforts to standardize the time as used by neighboring cities. Much confusion had developed in the transaction of intercity business because



of the different times used. There was no set order of time zones as we know them today, and such arrangement was not to come until 1883. Altoona played a part in the railroad's own attempt to bring about a standard time as may be seen in the following:

GENERAL ORDER NO. 21

With the next change of time-table, which will take place on Sunday, the 27th instant, on the three divisions of the main line, and on Monday, the 28th inst., on the branch road divisions, "PHILADELPHIA TIME" will be adopted as the standard time of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Philadelphia time is ten minutes faster than Altoona time and will be given in the usual way from Allegheny Observatory to all offices on the through wire, and from Altoona to all local offices.

Philadelphia,
October 24, 1872.

A. J. Cassatt,
General Manager.

Standardization of time was only one of many steps taken by the Pennsylvania Railroad in its pioneering efforts to establish an orderly system of operation during those early days when this young railroad industry was blazing a new trail across the field of mass transportation.

There were thousands of different kinds and items of material required for railroad use and scores of manufacturers each with their own standards of quality of product. The Railroad established the Test Department and Chemical Laboratory to provide a means of selecting the best material for a given use, to prepare standard specifications as a guide for the manufacturers to follow, and to insure compliance with the set standards in the purchased articles.

Facilities for this department were located in a section of the Master Mechanic's building on Ninth Avenue at Twelfth Street and the first Engineer of Tests was appointed in 1879.

In 1905 the Locomotive Test Plant, which had been on display the previous year at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, in St. Louis, was brought to Altoona and housed in a newly erected building near Sixteenth Street. This Test Plant, on which complete locomotives may be tested with their engines running at various speeds and loads, is now the only one of its kind in the western hemisphere.

The Test Department and Chemical Laboratory were moved to their present quarters on Sixteenth Street where, today, they continue to set and maintain standards of safety, comfort, convenience and economy that are recognized in the railroad industry the world over. Their services have made a most important contribution to the advance of modern railroading.

In 1948 activities were expanded with the opening of a new X-Ray Laboratory where, under the piercing rays of a 250,000 volt machine, the secrets of the internal structure of vital car and locomotive parts, steel rail, etc., are uncovered in the relentless search for safe and reliable materials for railroad use.

As previously indicated, the history of the Altoona Shops has been one of continual expansion of facilities. Hardly a year has gone by that has not seen new buildings added and obsolete ones removed to make way for a more modern plant. The original shops had gradually expanded to such a point that by 1869 no adequate ground was left, and the new car shop was started east of Seventh Street. This move afforded temporary "breath-



Courtesy Pennsylvania Railroad
A train rounding the Horseshoe Curve, famous landmark on the Pennsylvania Railroad.



Courtesy Pennsylvania Railroad
Altoona Machine Shop at Twelfth Street, destroyed by fire December 27, 1931. This shop was located on the site of the P. R. R. original shops in Altoona.

ing space" for the locomotive work, but the relief lasted only twenty years and the Juniata Shops to the east of the Car Shop were built to take on the additional locomotive work of the day.

The phenomenal growth of business of the Pennsylvania Railroad during the first forty years (1849 to 1889) continued unabated, if not accelerated, during the "Gay Nineties," so that by 1902 the volume of traffic had more than doubled the figure it had reached in 1890. It was at the turn of the century that the Pennsylvania Railroad concluded that in order to care for this business, it was necessary to launch upon a broad plan of improvements and enlargement of its facilities in the Altoona area.

During the period from 1900 to 1906 the extensive program was carried out. Trackage was increased by completing the Williamsburg branch from that town to Petersburg, by rebuilding the New Portage Railroad (dismantled in 1858), and constructing extensive yard and enginehouse facilities in Hollidaysburg. The tracks of the Pennsylvania and Northwestern Railroad were acquired in 1902, and in 1903 extensive enlargement of the Altoona Yards included a new westbound receiving and classification yard for empties and the building of the westbound hump. The construction of one of the world's largest enginehouses at East Altoona permitted the closing of two enginehouses in the congested Twelfth Street area, and the subsequent building of more locomotive and tender erecting shops and power plants on their former sites.

While the modernization of facilities of the Altoona Machine Shops at Twelfth Street was being progressed, a new unit of the plant was laid out two miles to the south. In 1904 the South Altoona Foundries and Oil Mixing Plant came into being as a result of the increased demands for iron castings of all kinds for both locomotive and car work. The great quantities of lubricants consumed made it desirable to provide facilities for supplying the entire railroad with a controlled grade of oils and greases, obtained from a single source of compounding from raw materials purchased competitively on specifications. This unit, in typical Altoona fashion, has maintained a program of expansion until it now includes not only an iron foundry with its supporting core room, pattern shop and pattern storage building, but also has a modern brass foundry, brass finishing shop, automatic shop and modern spring shop. Its Oil Mixing Plant has kept pace with the times and now includes facilities for the reclamation of diesel engine lubricating oil.

Further expansion of locomotive work at Juniata came about with the opening in 1924 of a new fifty stall erecting and machine shop, three hundred fifty by seven hundred feet in size, at the extreme east end of the plant. There followed an obvious plan to move the locomotive work out of the congested area of the Altoona Machine Shop at Twelfth Street. In the same year, the old circular freight car shop at First Street was made into a Locomotive Finishing Shop, and in 1927 a new large tank shop was opened for the repair of tenders.

On December 27, 1931, a disastrous fire struck the Altoona Machine Shop group, doing an estimated million and one-half dollars worth of damage. Arrangements were made for the men employed in the damaged shops to transfer to operations in other shops in the plant, but the role of the Altoona Machine Shops as the principal locomotive shops of the Works was near the end, and finally on August 1, 1938, the locomotive repair work was completely transferred to Juniata.



This latter change was the result of farsighted planning. The management of the Works, realizing that electrification in the eastern end of the railroad and the improved performance of modern steam locomotives would eventually reduce repair requirements below an amount needed to sustain the operations of two large plants, decided to concentrate the locomotive work in the Juniata group which although originally intended for new locomotive building only, had long since handled a large part of the repair assignments. On the other hand the anticipated increased demand for passenger and freight cars fitted well into the plan to convert the Twelfth Street facilities to car use and operate in conjunction with the Altoona Car Shop, a plan in use at the present time.

The history of the railroad in Altoona is a story of change upon change and growth upon growth. It seems to be the very nature of railroading here to meet the challenge of the times with a resourcefulness that weaves itself into the heart of a vast system that alone provides one-tenth of the total railroad transportation services of this great nation.

No demands have been pressed upon Altoona that have not been met. Increased volume of traffic has found the operating department ever ready to handle it. By enlarging yards, by providing alternate routes of traffic and by relocation of enginehouse and terminal facilities, the Middle and Pittsburgh Divisions have met any challenge presented to them. The shops have written a similar story of success in handling their assignments. All through the years this industrial giant has moved, stretched and turned to meet all requirements. Enlargement of buildings, relocation of operations, adoption of new manufacturing processes, new tools, new techniques, all have been employed to keep pace with and ahead of demands for its services. Even today it is taking the transition of motive power from steam to diesel in its stride. The large Erecting and Machine Shop is being groomed for handling diesel locomotives, Machine Shop No. 2 in Juniata is now one of the best diesel engine shops in the country and the old tank shop at Twelfth Street, at a location which has seen successively car, then locomotive, and again car work, is the new site of the modern diesel generator and traction motor repair shop now in operation.

The picture thus presented by the recent extensive changes in plant and equipment offers the most concrete evidence of the Railroad's confidence in the ability of the Altoona Works to meet its obligations of service. The large investments already made by the Company to provide the changes necessary to accommodate the present Diesel repair program and the ultimate total investment that the Railroad is planning to make at this point assures the community of the important part the Railroad will continue to play in its future.

Through the fabric of this story of one hundred years of progress there is woven a common strand that binds it together and promises to set the pattern of the progress that lies ahead. It is the filial tie between railroad and city, and between city and railroad. This co-operative concern of one for the other is the secret of its success in the past and its assurance for the future.



Courtesy Brehman's Art Studio, Williamsburg
 Chestnut Avenue looking east from Eleventh Street in the early 90's.



Courtesy Brehman's Art Studio, Williamsburg
 Green Avenue looking east from Eleventh Street in the early 90's.



D. S. Keith Junior High School

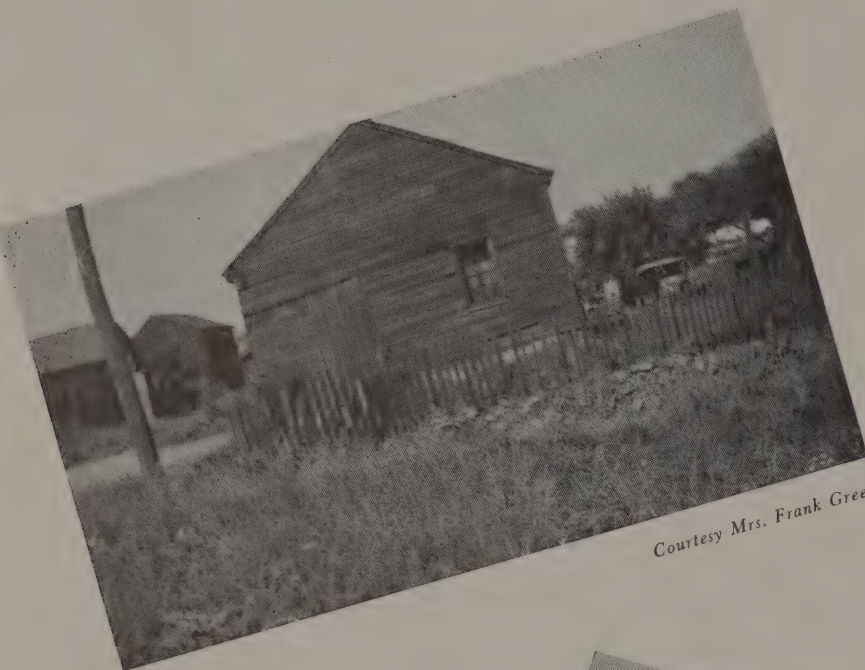
A Centennial History of **The Altoona Public School System** *1849—1949*

Charlotte M. Patrick, *Principal Garfield School*
 Mae C. Harter, *Theodore Roosevelt Junior High School*
 Martha E. McKerihan, *D. S. Keith Junior High School*
 Charles A. Faris, *Senior High School*
 K. Virginia Krick, *Public Librarian*
 Eugene L. Lantz, *Senior High School, Chairman*

The Pioneer Schools

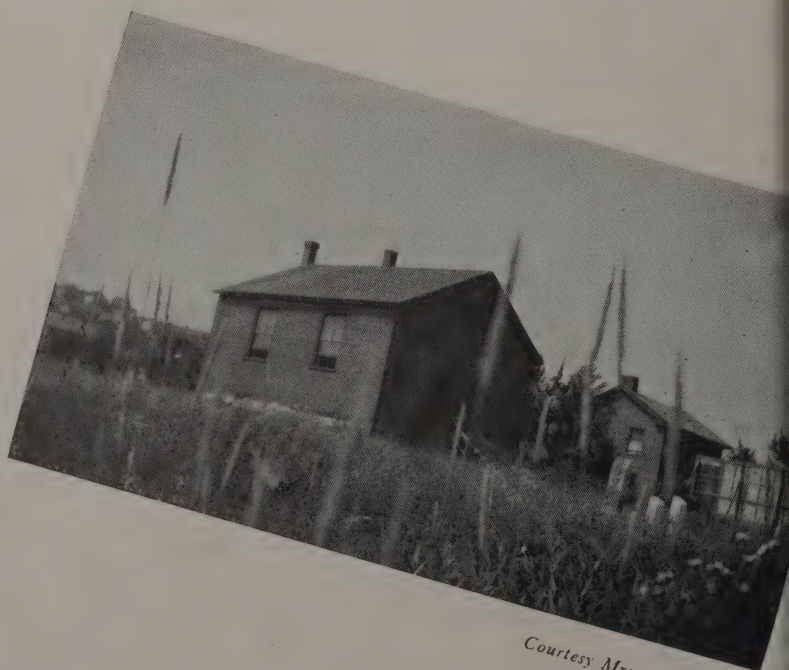
RECORDS disclose that the first school built within the boundaries of what is now Altoona was the Beale, later known as the Oak Ridge School. This structure was completed in 1815. Crude as it was, and cold and drafty as it must have been, this primitive log building nevertheless represented a commendable effort on the part of the region's early settlers to secure the benefits of an education for their offspring.

Modern pupils, for whom the present nine-months' term is quite an ordeal, will probably envy those early scholars their term of three months. Most of us, however, would find little pleasure in the Spartan simplicity of the appointments; the rough-hewn slab benches, and the desks formed by sloping boards laid on pegs leaning against the walls. We would even find the sunlight inadequate, filtered as it was, through narrow, foot-high windows that were covered with thin oiled paper.



Courtesy Mrs. Frank Green

Another of Altoona's early one-room school houses, located on Pleasant Valley Avenue and Sixteenth Street. The building is still standing and is the home of the Union Church.



Courtesy Mrs. Frank Green

One of Altoona's first schools. The Collinsville School located on South Sixteenth Street. During the Civil War, this one-room school was used as a home by Mrs. Jacob Brumbaugh and Mrs. Ruben Peck while their husbands were serving in the Union Army. Both men returned safely after the war. The building is still standing.

That important personage, the school-master, had to be male on two accounts: first, to wield the birch rod; and second, to survive the rigors of the classroom. For his efforts, the teacher received the princely sum of \$8 to \$12 per month. His living expenses were, of necessity, eked out by the privilege of "boarding round" at the homes of his pupils, where he received a tolerant, if seldom enthusiastic, reception.

As the population grew, other wooden elementary schools sprang up within the area of the future city. The pupils of the Union School, erected in 1838, shared their building with the members of three church congregations. A building on the site of the present Emerson School introduced the first woman teacher, Cordelia White, while on the other side of a partition, John Rutherford taught the boys. By 1857 we learn that there were seven schools in Altoona, employing nine teachers and with an enrollment of 550 pupils.

The Elementary School 1827201

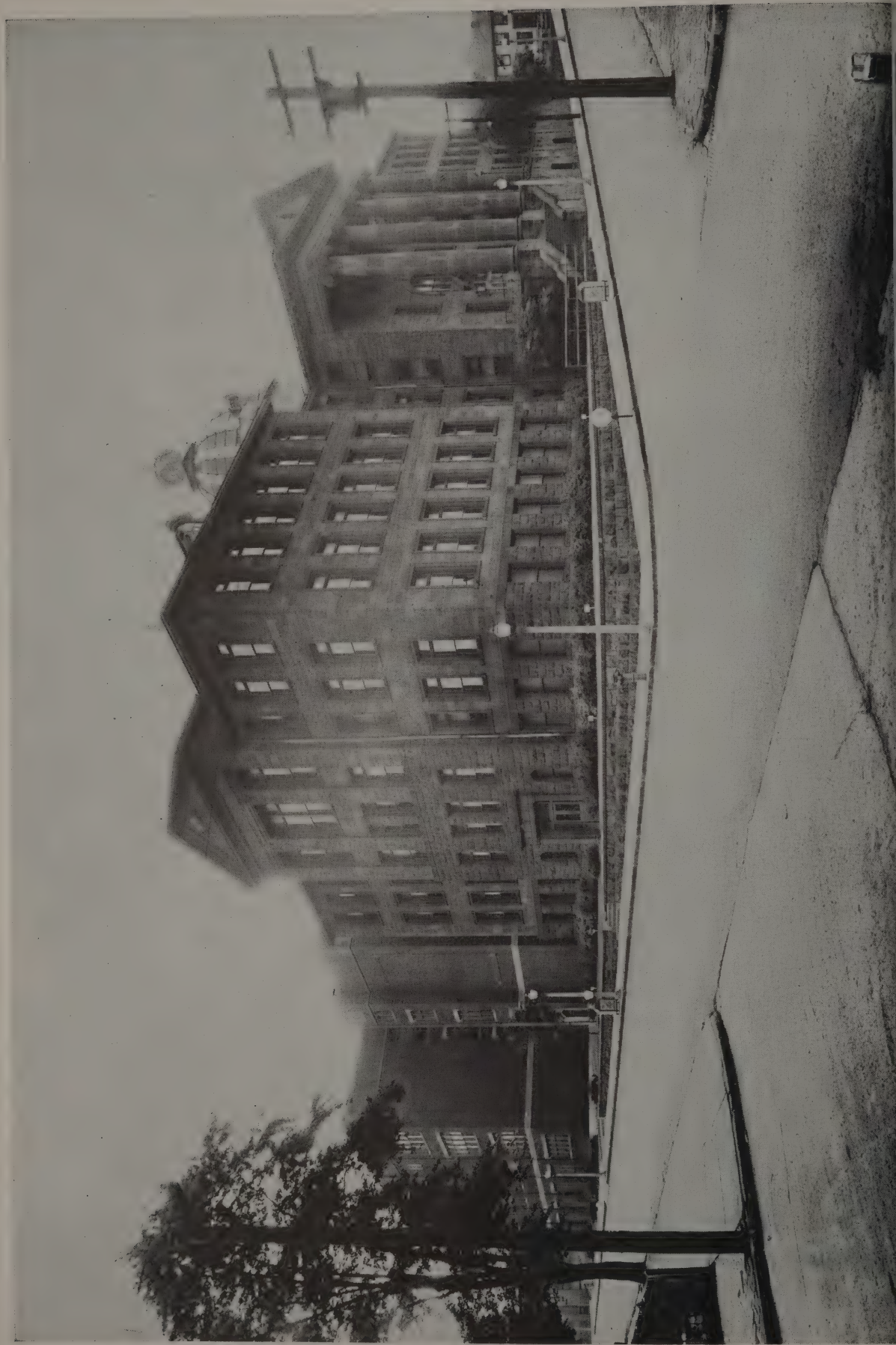
The second period of growth in the Altoona school system was ushered in with the incorporation of the city in 1869, and the appointment of Professor John Miller as the first city Superintendent of Schools. Professor Miller began; and his successor, the able D. S. Keith, completed; an extensive program of building and curriculum revision which make the whole period of 1870-1895 one of remarkable progress for the elementary school.

With creditable foresight, the members of the School Board of that day began to erect permanent, three-story brick structures to accommodate the increasing school population. Commencing with the Webster Building in 1870, the next twenty years witnessed the completion of the following well-known ward schools: Penn, Wright, Emerson, Franklin, Adams, Irving, Madison, Washington, Miller, and Jefferson. All of these buildings except the Webster, Madison, and Franklin are still in use, despite the fact that several are older than the span of the average man's life.

On the curriculum side, the birch rod lost a bit of its potency as newer methods of instruction evolved during this period. With the introduction of music and art into the program, school became somewhat more tolerable to the pupils of the 1870's. These were used to supplement the teaching of the "common branches" of reading, writing, arithmetic and spelling. They remained part of the curriculum in spite of the protests of some parents who, even at that early date, regarded them as "frills." Still later, "physical culture" was introduced, along with manual training for the boys and sewing classes for the girls.

As early as 1872 the length of the school term was extended to nine months, and in 1875 the present eight-grade system was established. This system, with occasional changes, continued in force until 1924, when the opening of the Theodore Roosevelt Junior High School resulted in the two upper grades being shifted to the junior high school under the 6-3-3 plan.

The years since 1900 have been marked by accelerated progress in the elementary schools. New schools, such as the Stevens, were constructed; the Fairview and Curtain Schools were purchased from Logan Township, and in 1929 the schools of Juniata Borough, Wehnwood, East End, Pleasant Valley, and Allegheny Furnace were acquired by the annexation of the territory which they served. Qualifications for teachers have risen steadily through the years to a point where a bachelor's degree, courses in methods, and in-service training are virtual necessities for the modern teacher.



Salaries, still modest for the amount of training required, have advanced materially and are now by law equal to those of secondary teachers having equal preparation and experience.

The Senior High School

We come next to the third period of expansion in the Altoona schools, which we shall call the era of the Senior High School. Thus far, if little has been said about secondary education in Altoona, it is simply because very few pupils progressed to the high school level in their studies before the 1890's. Although the first graduating class of six persons received diplomas in the Webster Building as early as 1877, it was not until the completion of the Lincoln Building in 1895 that the High School had for the first time a separate building of its own.

Once established, however, the growth of the High School under the firm leadership of the late Dr. George D. Robb was truly phenomenal. As a result, the School Board found it necessary in 1905 to purchase from the Jaggard Estate the original site of the present High School. On this site the Board erected a Hummelstown brownstone building with a tiled roof and a large glass dome. The cost was the then unheard-of sum of one quarter million dollars. In addition to its twenty-five classrooms, this edifice contained a gymnasium, science laboratories, administrative offices and an auditorium with a capacity of 1500 persons. A manual training department was established through a gift of \$98,000 from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

For a time the new building was more than adequate to meet the needs of the school population. However, the First World War gave such an impetus to education that the Board was again faced with a serious shortage of facilities. When the inauguration of half-day sessions and the use of portable buildings failed to provide more than partial relief, the Board, in 1929, erected at a cost in excess of one million dollars an annex in tapestry brick to the original brownstone building. Future developments proved this to be a wise decision, for even after the establishment of the three-year Senior High School upon the opening of the Theodore Roosevelt Junior High, the enrollment continued to rise to the unprecedented peak of 4213 students in the term of 1939-40.

At the present time the Senior High School contains ninety-one classrooms, and the building accommodates five hundred vocational students in the following trades: electricity, machine shop, cabinet making, planing mill, automobile, welding, sheet metal, radio, plumbing, printing, mechanical drawing, and general industrial shop.

The largely classical type of education offered in earlier years has been expanded to include the following curricula: General, College Preparatory, Business Education, George-Deen Home Economics, and the Vocational Courses. In addition, the school publishes a yearbook, *The Horse-shoe*; a newspaper, *The Mountain Echo*; a handbook, *The Compass*; maintains a band, orchestra, three excellent choral groups, and a drama department which combine to produce a very popular annual talent show.

No account of the Altoona Senior High School's history would be complete without reference to its superior record both in scholarship and athletics. In 1931 the school was selected by the Carnegie Foundation as one of only three Pennsylvania schools to take part in a study of "The Relations of Secondary and Higher Education in Pennsylvania." Two years



Altoona's Theodore Roosevelt Junior High School.



Lakemont Park, since 1894 central Pennsylvania's greatest family picnic park. A favorite spot for thousands of Altoonans. Located on Route 220, midway between Altoona and Hollidaysburg. 113 acres of natural beauty. Cool shade everywhere. Clean picnic pavilions and tables.

later, in 1933, the school was chosen to be one of thirty schools in the nation to participate in the epochal Eight-Year Study of the Commission on the Relation of School and College of the Progressive Education Association.

In the field of competitive athletics, noteworthy championships have been won in the three major sports of football, basketball and track. Altoona High School football teams have participated in Conference championships on three different occasions, and basket ball squads have played in State championship games twice. District and State track records established by local athletes have withstood determined challenges by countless competitors from other schools. The school also supports a highly successful baseball squad, a cross country squad, and a widely extended program of intra-mural sports. The opening of Mansion Park in 1928 gave Altoona one of the finest scholastic athletic parks in the State, which with the erection of a second bank of steel bleachers in 1948 represents an investment of more than \$200,000.

The Junior High School

The opening of the Theodore Roosevelt Junior High School marked the beginning of a fourth phase in the progress of the Altoona schools. When the building was completed in 1924, junior high schools were a comparatively recent development in education. They were designed as a "proving ground" which would help bridge the immense gap between the elementary and secondary school. Until the completion of the D. S. Keith Junior High School in 1929, Roosevelt drew its pupils from the entire city. Now, however, Roosevelt serves the East Side, while Keith is used by students from the West Side and from Juniata.

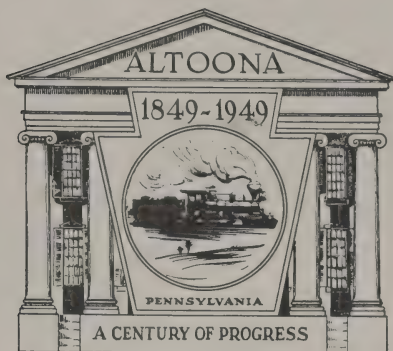
One of the community assets in the Roosevelt building is the beautiful and spacious auditorium, with a capacity of 1800. Another is the Public Library, operated by the school district, with a total of some 95,000 titles on its shelves. The nucleus of this collection was donated by the former "Mechanics Library Association."

The D. S. Keith Junior High School, sitting on beautifully landscaped grounds overlooking the city is the newest and most imposing of Altoona's schools. It has light, airy and cheerful classrooms that can accommodate 1500 pupils, together with an auditorium, gymnasiums and all the other adjuncts of a fine modern school. Recently the Board has recognized this school's need for a playfield, and has begun construction of a site for this purpose in a natural bowl between Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets and extending from Twenty-fifth to Twenty-eighth Avenues.

It is a far cry, of course, from the primitive pioneer school of the early 1800's to the modern school system that is one of the city's proudest assets. In cold cash these investments measure about seven million dollars in grounds and buildings. In more valuable, though less tangible assets, the community has invested in its youth, and the youth of Altoona have proven worthy of this trust. The modern school is concerned primarily with the development of the individual, rather than with the formalized subject matter of earlier days. Techniques in discovering and developing special interests and talents, the fostering of civic responsibility, the satisfaction of individual needs . . . all these are part of the school system of the city today. The modern classroom and the modern teacher have the paramount task of seeing that our youth are fully equipped to meet skillfully and joyously all the challenges hurled at them by the complex pattern of modern life.



Photo by I. L. Gartland
Baker Mansion, built 1846. Now the property and home of the
Blair County Historical Society.



Altoona Centennial Program

(All events scheduled on D.S.T.)

ALL WEEK: AUGUST 7-14

Miniature railroad exhibit..... Wolfe bldg., corner Chestnut Ave. & 10th St.
P.R.R. Exhibit.....Ninth Avenue and 17th Street
State Game Commission Wildlife Display..Chief Logan Lodge, Riggles Gap
Air National Guard mechanical Display.....Penelec window, 11th Avenue
Sight-seeing tours (Altoona & Logan Valley) one trip per day over each route.

1. Horseshoe Curve, Loretto, Prince Gallitzin (lay-over at each site).
2. Cove Valley (Roaring Spring, Martinsburg, Williamsburg, Hollidaysburg; lay-over at each site).
3. Sinking Valley (Arch Springs), Tyrone, Juniata, Wopsononock (lay-over at each site, except Juniata).

Mobile Safe Driver Clinics.....12th Street opposite Post Office Building
Centennial Headquarters displays.....Wolfe bldg. and Penelec Bldg.
Freedom Trailers.....Corner Broad Ave. and 23rd Street
Antique auto display.....(William E. Swigart, Jr., Huntingdon)—Wolfe bldg.

Baker Mansion (Blair County Historical Society).....10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Allegheny Furnace.....Open all day
United States Army Exhibit.....Cricket Field
Blair County Tennis Club Open Tournament.....Cricket field courts



Special Events

- Aug. 6—Centennial Preview: Tommy Bartlett's NBC "Welcome Traveler" show. Jaffa Mosque, 8:30 p.m.
- Aug. 7—Centennial shoot. Chief Logan Lodge, Riggle's Gap, 1 p.m. Blair County finals, Pennsylvania Amateur Softball Association Tournament; Cricket field, 2 p. m.
- Aug. 8—Marine Corps Aircraft display (8 planes from Quantico, Va.). Model Air Show, Cricket field, 1 p.m.
- Aug. 8 to 13—Blair County Tennis Club Open Tournament. Cricket field.
- Aug. 9—Baseball at Cricket field, 5 p.m. Oldtimers vs. Greater City League All-Stars.
Fireworks at Lakemont Park, 9:45 p.m.
- Aug. 9-10—Flower show, art handicraft, antiques, farm show. Jaffa Mosque.
- Aug. 9-10—Centennial Pageant in Jaffa Mosque, 8:30.
- Aug. 10—Navy blimp over city; from Lakehurst, N. J.
Orange Crate Derby (Eleventh street, between 19th & 23rd avenues. 1:00 p.m.) Water Carnival at Lakemont Park, 2 p.m.
Baseball at Cricket field, 3 p.m. Jr. Federation All-Stars vs. Huntingdon.
- Aug. 11—Professional boxing show, Jaffa Mosque, 8:30.
Centennial railroad excursion. Leaves Altoona, 1 p.m.
Block dances, 9 p.m. to 12 p.m. Fireworks at Lakemont Park, 9:45.
- Aug. 11-12—State Police Rodeo. Mansion Park.
- Aug. 11-12-13-14—Blairmont Invitation Golf Tournament. Blairmont Country Club.
- Aug. 12-13—City Bowling Tournament. Trialto Alleys.
- Aug. 13-14—Air show at Blair County airport, Martinsburg.
Horse Show at Frankstown Hunt Club.
- Aug. 14—West-Central district finals, Pennsylvania Amateur Softball Association Tournament. Cricket field, 2 p. m.

Program of Events

SUNDAY

August 7th—A.M.—Church services of thanksgiving; all Altoona churches (125); sermons to carry centennial story.

1:00 P.M.—Centennial shoot at Chief Logan Lodge, Riggle's Gap.

2:00 P.M.—United Sunday School Services in Jaffa Mosque. Mass choir of 1,000 voices, directed by Howard W. Lindaman.

2:00 P.M.—Blair county finals, Pennsylvania Amateur Softball Association Tournament, at Cricket field.

7:30 P.M.—Altoona Choral Society Concert (Inter-Faith Meeting) in Jaffa Mosque.

MONDAY

August 8th—1:00 P.M.—Model Air Show, Cricket field.

6:00 P.M. Reception and dinner in Penn Alto hotel for Gov. James H. Duff and dignitaries.

7:30 P.M. Military Day Parade.

9:00 P.M. Square Dance at Naval Reserve Station.

9:15 P.M. Program in Jaffa Mosque. Speakers: Gov. James H. Duff, Fleet Admiral William F. (Bull) Halsey, Cong. James E. VanZandt. Music: Kiwanis Choir.

10:00 P.M. to 1:00 A.M. Free dance in Jaffa Mosque.

TUESDAY

August 9th—10:30 A.M.—Dedication of Agudath Achim Memorial Center. Formal Inauguration of Altoona's Recreation program; Youth Parade.

2:30 P.M.—Dedication of St. Mary's Hall.

5:00 P.M.—Baseball at Cricket Field. Oldtimers vs. Greater City League All-Stars.

8:30 P.M.—Centennial Pageant in Jaffa Mosque. Cast of 500.

9:45 P.M. Fireworks at Lakemont Park.

10:00 P.M. to 12:00 P.M. Free Dance in Jaffa Mosque.

WEDNESDAY

August 10th—A.M.—Stores display their history. Business on Parade.

10:30 A.M.—Agricultural parade.

P.M.—Window showings, fashion shows.

1:00 P.M.—Orange Crate Derby (Eleventh Street, between Nineteenth and Twenty-third Avenues).

2:00 P.M.—Water Carnival at Lakemont Park.

3:00 P.M.—Baseball at Cricket Field. Jr. Federation All-Stars vs. Huntingdon.

8:30 P.M.—Centennial pageant in Jaffa Mosque. Cast of 500.

THURSDAY

August 11th—A.M.—Devoted to neighborliness. Coffee clubs on air.

1:00 P.M.—Centennial railroad excursion.

2:00 P.M.—State Police Rodeo at Mansion Park. Free matinee for children under 16 years of age.

6:30 P.M.—Fraternal parade. Open house in all clubs after parade.



Photo by Van Zandt

Jaffa Mosque, built by Jaffa Temple A.A.O.N.M.S. Altoona's community center with the largest auditorium and banquet hall in central Pennsylvania. Was dedicated September 25, 1930 by Jaffa Shrine. The auditorium seats 4,012 persons, and the banquet hall 2,000 persons. Its facilities are used for assemblies of all kinds. Ground was broken for the Mosque on June 21, 1928, and the corner stone laid on September 26, 1929.



8:30 P.M.—Professional boxing show at Jaffa Mosque.

9:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M.—Block dances (7).

1. Juniata—Seventh Avenue and Second Street.
2. Fairview—Twenty-third Avenue at Fairview Bakery.
3. Beale Avenue between Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth Streets.
4. East End—Fifth Avenue between Third and Fourth Streets.
5. Ruskin Drive at Fifty-eighth Street.
6. Altoona High School, Fifteenth Street side.
7. Penn-Alto Hotel—Thirteenth Avenue, between Eleventh and Twelfth Street.

9:45 P.M.—Fireworks at Lakemont Park.

FRIDAY

August 12th—A.M.—Whistles blow at all plants; fanfare of Altoona at work.

2:00 P.M.—State Police Rodeo at Mansion Park.

5:00 P.M.—Reception and dinner for Vice President Alben W. Barkley in Penn-Alto Hotel.

6:00 P.M.—Labor and Industry parade.

6:30 P.M.—City Bowling Tournament at Trialto Alleys.

8:00 P.M.—State Police Rodeo at Mansion Park.

8:15 P.M.—Program in Jaffa Mosque. Speaker: Alben W. Barkley, Vice President of the United States.

9:30 P.M. to 12:00 P.M.—Free dance in Jaffa Mosque.

SATURDAY

August 13th—A.M.—Railroad displays and exhibits; new style trains.

9:00 A.M.—Horse Show at Frankstown Hunt Club.

1:00 P.M.—Air show at Blair County Airport, Martinsburg. Overhead air displays.

2:00 P.M.—Firemen's parade. Fire fighting exhibition by Altoona fire department at Cricket field follows parade.

6:30 P. M.—City Bowling Tournament at Trialto Alleys.

8:30 P.M.—Railroad Night program in Jaffa Mosque. Speaker: E. W. Smith, Vice President Pennsylvania Railroad's eastern division.

SUNDAY

August 14th—A.M.—Special church services, prayers and sermons; all churches (125).

1:00 P.M.—Horse Show at Frankstown Hunt Club.

1:00 P.M. and throughout afternoon—Air show at Blair County Airport, Martinsburg. Speakers: Roscoe Turner, world's famous aviator; Congressman James E. VanZandt. U. S. Air Force and Naval Air Arm to participate. Air circus (2½ hours) by professional fliers.

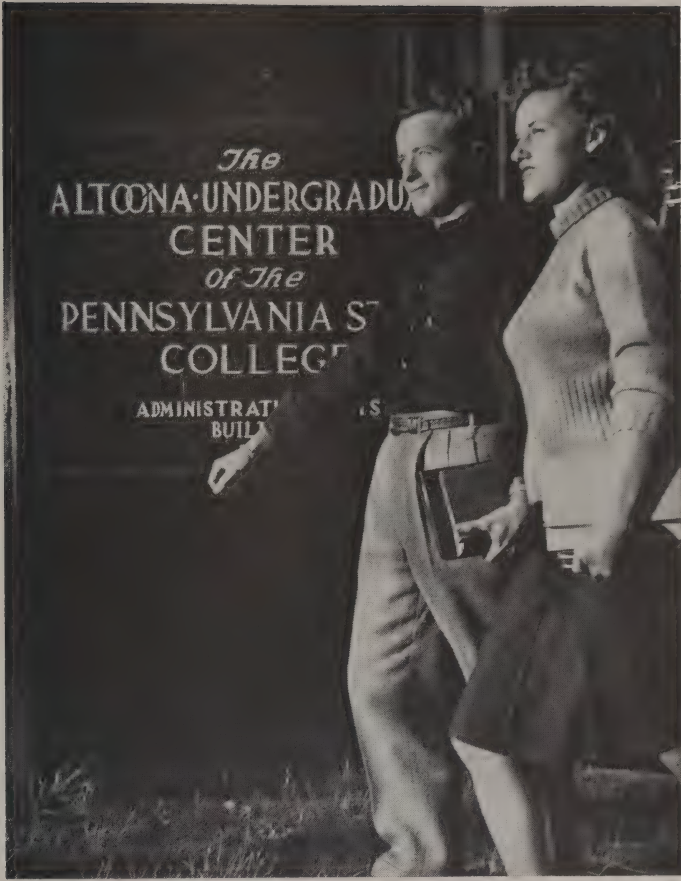
2:00 P.M.—West-Central district finals, Pennsylvania Amateur Softball Association Tournament at Cricket field.

Evening—Devotions in all churches. The benediction.



Courtesy L. C. Wolfe

Former President Theodore Roosevelt being driven down Twelfth Avenue by L. C. Wolfe. At the time Roosevelt was campaigning for president on the Bull Moose ticket.



Brief History of

Altoona Center of The Pennsylvania State College

AT THE request of the community, and after a careful survey to establish the need for a junior college unit, The Pennsylvania State College opened the first office of the Altoona Undergraduate Center on July 17, 1939, in the Y. M. C. A. Building, Lexington Avenue and Ninth Street. Robert E. Eiche, assisted by Robert L. Smith, was in charge. The sum of \$5,000 was raised in Blair County by public subscription in order to renovate the vacant Webster grade school building, Lexington Avenue and Tenth Street. J. E. Holtzinger, Vice-President and General Manager of the Mirror Printing Company, was instrumental in Center work from the very earliest discussion.

The Webster building was occupied August 4, 1939, and it was in this building on September 20, 1939, that the first full-time daytime freshman year of college work was begun in Altoona. There were 119 students enrolled for the first semester and the faculty numbered nine persons. The Altoona Center Little Theater Group, directed by Charles F. Diehl, began presentations this semester.

A citizens' advisory board was organized and held its first meeting February 25, 1940, with E. C. Gegenheimer, then Superintendent of the Middle Division of The Pennsylvania Railroad, as chairman.

Closing exercises of the first year were held June 5, 1940, at the Penn-Alto Hotel.

In order to add the sophomore year of college work, additional building space was needed. The Advisory Board of the Altoona Undergraduate Center of Penn State in the Spring of 1940 decided to remodel the vacant Madison grade school building, Sixth Avenue and Seventh Street. Over \$3,000 was raised locally by public subscription to cover the cost of this work. Two chemistry laboratories, a physics laboratory, a biology laboratory, and a drafting room were established in this building, which was occupied for college use September 16, 1940. The student body at this time numbered 187.

On July 8, 1940, the Altoona Center began a course of aeronautics instruction in cooperation with the Civil Aeronautics Authority.

When the Pennsylvania State Association for Adult Education held its 1940 Annual Conference at the Penn-Alto Hotel October 4 and 5, 1940, the Penn State Center was host to that group. R. E. Eiche was program chairman.

Toward the end of 1940 the colleges and universities of the nation began cooperation with U. S. Office of Education in conducting Engineering Defense Training programs for adults to aid in the defense effort. E. D. T. classes were begun at the Altoona Center of Penn State on January 13, 1941, with 267 students enrolled in evening study. Pilot training was continued in cooperation with Civil Aeronautics Authority.

To help fit recent high school graduates for jobs in defense plants, the Altoona Center began a ten-week course of daytime instruction in Introductory Engineering subjects June 16, 1941.

Courses in the Engineering, Science and Management War Training program of the United States Office of Education were conducted in Altoona by Penn State until 1944. Altogether there were over 2,500 student enrollments in Altoona defense and war training classes. In addition, personnel from the Altoona Center organized and operated similar classes in Hollidaysburg, Tyrone, Roaring Spring, Barnesboro, Portage, Williamsburg, and Johnstown in order to help train men and women for war jobs.

In order to accelerate college graduation, the Altoona Center in June, 1942, began to operate a full semester of work during the summer months. The three-semester-a-year plan was continued until the Fall of 1945. The Altoona Community Chest and the Altoona Center of Penn State on September 18, 1944, opened a Veterans' Counseling Office in the Webster building. After serving discharged service men and women for a number of months, this office was moved to the Pennsylvania Electric Company building where larger quarters were available.

To accommodate an overflow of women students at the main campus, the Advisory Board in the summer of 1944 decided to operate a dormitory. The advisory group was incorporated and then purchased the former Annie C. Wolf home at 1609 Thirteenth Street. This property was converted for use as a dormitory under the name, Annie C. Wolf Dormi-

tory, and was operated as such until the summer of 1946 when there was no longer a need for such dormitory space.

With the return of the veterans to civilian life, enrollment of the Altoona College grew by leaps and bounds. In September, 1945, it was 125, in February, 1946, almost 300, and in September, 1946, 610. The need for a new college campus was keenly felt by the Advisory Board, faculty, and student body. It was realized that two ancient public school buildings a half-mile apart and on different sides of the Pennsylvania Railroad were no longer adequate for the program of a genuine community college.

Various possible new sites were investigated. It was at the former Ivyside Recreation Park in Logan Township just northeast of the city of Altoona that the Board discovered in July, 1946, existing facilities that could be converted to college use at limited cost. By means of personal subscription, mail campaign, house-to-house canvass, and collection and sale of waste paper a fund of \$50,000 was raised to purchase and partly remodel the new Ivyside Campus. In 1947 the veterans' organizations of Blair County formed a Veterans' Memorial Committee which collected by public subscription some \$22,000 to assist in the remodeling process. J. E. Holtzinger and James K. McNeal, Chairman and member respectively of the Advisory Board, were most active in the new campus project.

Unfortunately, work on the Ivyside project did not proceed rapidly enough to accommodate the faculty and student body in September, 1947. Instead, the use of the Webster and Madison buildings was continued, as was the daytime use for college purposes of the entire Y. M. C. A. building, Lexington Avenue and Ninth Street. This building was first occupied by the Altoona College in the academic year 1946-47. A cafeteria was operated there by the Advisory Board from 1946 to 1948.

In September, 1947, the largest student body in its history was enrolled in studies at the Altoona Center. There were 662 students of which 472 were veterans.

All operations of the Penn State Center were removed from the Madison, Webster and Y. M. C. A. buildings to the Ivyside Campus in June, 1948. By September the structures at the new location were sufficiently rebuilt to include a main building which housed offices, classrooms and laboratories; a chemistry building, and a student union building. Classes were begun at the new campus September 27, 1948, when the student body numbered 561.

On July 1, 1948, the Altoona Center became the focal point of all Penn State Extension Service operations in Cambria, Blair, Bedford, Huntingdon, Somerset and Fulton Counties.

In addition to the regular freshman and sophomore years of college work, the Altoona Center of Penn State by its tenth anniversary, July 17, 1949, was conducting special courses for adults in teacher training, nurses' training, management training, merchandising, mechanics' training (Diesel Locomotives) and business administration. A guidance center was being operated in cooperation with the Veterans' Administration. The Center was publishing its own weekly newspaper, a literary magazine, and was operating its own radio station. A completely equipped cafeteria, bookstore, and dispensary were meeting vital needs of its students.

The institution stood ready to cooperate with the Altoona Federation in the establishment of a complete program of adult education and training for the community. All this had been accomplished under the continuous ten-year direction of Robert E. Eiche, Administrative Head.

**Members of the Advisory Board of the Altoona Undergraduate Center
Altoona, Pennsylvania**

- J. E. Holtzinger, Chairman
Vice President and General Manager, Mirror Printing Company
- W. S. Gardner, Vice Chairman
Altoona Works Local No. 42, Brotherhood of Railroad Shop Crafts
of America
- R. E. Eiche, Secretary
Administrative Head, Altoona Undergraduate Center
- E. J. Master, Treasurer
Inter Service Club Council of Altoona
- R. L. Smith, Assistant Treasurer
Assistant Administrative Head, Altoona Undergraduate Center
- J. B. Brooks
Middle Division Local No. 3
Brotherhood of Railroad Shop Crafts of America
- Miss Clara Cockerille
Assistant Superintendent, Altoona Public Schools
- Robert Cornmesser
President, Altoona Undergraduate Center Alumni Association
- Miss Anne Eifler
Director of Cafeterias and Departments of Home Economics,
Altoona Public Schools
- George P. Gable
President, William F. Gable Company
- J. N. Maddocks
Principal, Altoona High School
- J. K. McNeal
Chief Clerk, Locomotive Shops, Pennsylvania Railroad
- J. M. Alter
President, Penn State Alumni Association of Blair County
- Miss Olga Snyder
President, Penn State Alumnae Association of Blair County
- R. L. Thompson
Secretary, Altoona School District
- F. G. Weber
Altoona Works Local No. 42, Brotherhood of Railroad Shop Crafts
of America
- S. A. Adler
Assistant Administrative Head, Altoona Undergraduate Center
- Coleman Herpel
Assistant Administrative Head, Altoona Undergraduate Center

In November, 1929, the Pennsylvania State College opened the Altoona Evening Class Center with Lloyd M. Morris, now Assistant Engineer of Tests of the Pennsylvania Railroad, in charge. The evening class center offered non-college credit extension instruction in Mechanical and Electrical engineering and in business administration to employed individuals not interested in qualifying for a college degree. This branch of the College continued to function until 1941 when the Engineering Defense Training program was begun.

In February, 1946, the Altoona Technical Institute of the Pennsylvania State College was begun as the successor to the Altoona Evening Class Center. This branch of the local college offers a three-year evening extension curricula in Industrial Electricity, Mechanical and Production Tool Design, Business Administration, and Mechanics Training, for adults not desiring college credit.



Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.
Thirteenth Avenue between Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets.

History of

Catholic Education in Altoona

By Rev. Dr. Francis A. McNelis

THE population of Altoona increased rapidly with the construction of the Pennsylvania Railroad Shops, and in July, 1853, Father John Tuigg was appointed resident pastor of old St. John's parish, now the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Intensely interested in education, Father Tuigg organized Sunday school classes, supervised informal educational activities, and opened a week-day school in the church basement, employing Miss Mary Leavy to teach the girls and Mr. Timothy Brophy to teach the boys. In 1854 Father Tuigg opened "The White School," a white-painted frame building at Second Avenue and Ninth Street. In 1870 the younger boys and girls were transferred to St. John's Convent School, and later when the Franciscan Brothers opened their Academy the White School was closed.

On May 12, 1867, Father Tuigg began the construction of a massive brick building, a combination school and convent, on Thirteenth Avenue near Thirteenth Street. He interested the Sisters of Charity of Mother Seton of Cincinnati, Ohio, in establishing a foundation in Altoona, and Sister M. Aloysia, Superior, and Sisters M. Blanche, Marie, and Marie Teresa arrived on August 20, 1870. As they were conducted up the hill from the depot to the convent by Father Tuigg and Father John Hickey of Pittsburgh, the convent bell pealed forth the evening Angelus for the first time, and much to the surprise of the Sisters, the Volunteer Vigilant Fire Company came on the run and a crowd of onlookers gathered to witness the entry of the Sisters of Charity into the life of Altoona, an event commemorated in 1945 by a seventy-fifth anniversary celebration.

In September, 1878, the Franciscan Brothers of Loretto opened a house in Altoona, located on the plot now occupied by the Cathedral convent. Brother Athanasius, the master teacher, Brother Angelus, the sterling leader, and Brother Ambrose, the humble counselor, and others taught the boys of St. John's in the "Brothers' House" and in the two-room frame building at Sixth Avenue and Eleventh Street. Later when the parish school was erected at Thirteenth Avenue and Thirteenth Street, the Brothers abandoned the Sixth Avenue building and transferred all their pupils to the new building which contained six classrooms, a library and a spacious auditorium.

Father Morgan M. Sheedy, who had served as an assistant pastor of St. John's in 1880 and 1881, was appointed pastor on December 5, 1894. He devoted much time and effort to the parish school, to educational activities for youth and adults, and to the publication of "The Quarterly" and later of "The Monthly" magazine. Under his direction and the competent teaching of the Sisters of Charity, the school was recognized by educators and laymen as an outstanding institution of elementary learning. Since 1925 when the old convent school was demolished to make room for the Cathedral, the Sisters have lived in the new convent beside the school, and all classes have been held in the school building.

As the number of German-speaking immigrants increased in Altoona, a church was constructed in 1860 at Fifth Avenue and Fourteenth Street and dedicated under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary with her title of "The Immaculate Conception." In February, 1862, the first resident pastor, Father C. Schuler, was appointed. In 1866 Father A. Roswogg succeeded him as pastor of St. Mary's (the title more commonly used in referring to the parish) and he opened a school in the church basement with lay teachers in charge. Later the children were transferred to a two-story frame structure on the far side of the alley to the rear of the church. Father John Schell assigned the teaching duties to the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Agnes of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, in January, 1877. Father Schell directed the construction of the present building which was completed in 1890 and opened for classes in September of that year. In 1925 Father George Bock converted the third floor auditorium into classrooms to provide better accommodations for the steadily increasing number of pupils.

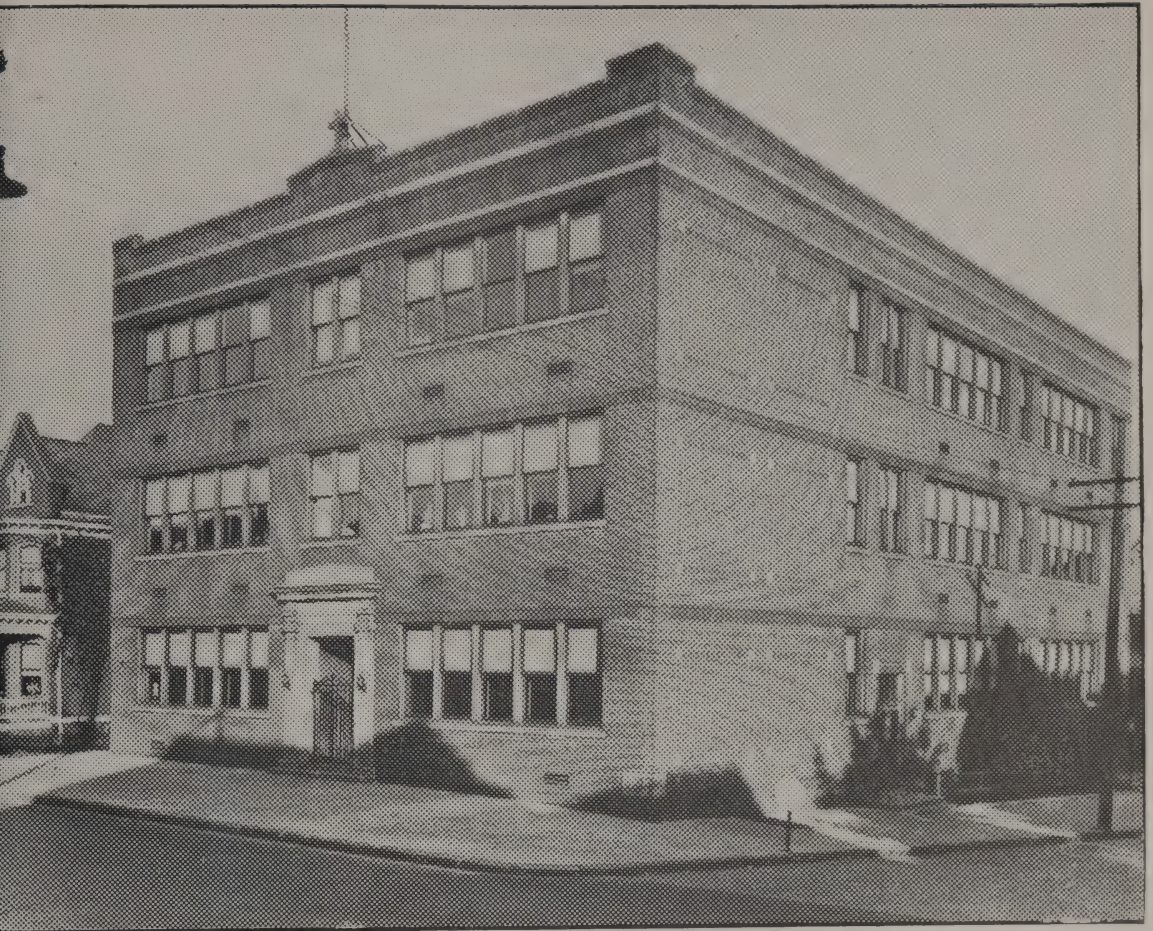
During the pastorate of Father Dominic Zwickert, a "branch school" of frame construction was erected in 1899 at the corner of Bell Avenue and Second Street for the children who lived in what are now the Eighth and Tenth Wards and outlying sections. The school was in charge of two Sisters of St. Agnes who lived in the "Sisters' House" near the school during the week and returned to St. Mary's convent for the week-ends. A gradual decrease in enrollment resulted in the closing of the school in June, 1913.

As the number of Catholic families in Altoona increased, two new parishes were formed in the city. In April, 1889, Father Nicholas J. O'Reilly was commissioned to organize a parish in the northeast section under the patronage of St. Mark, the Evangelist. The old school at Sixth Avenue and Eleventh Street which had been used by the Franciscan Brothers was converted into a temporary chapel, and after the new church was erected and dedicated in July, 1891, this building was used as a parish school, with the addition of a third room known as "the high room." The Sisters of Mercy of Loretto accepted the invitation to teach in the school, and in 1893 Father O'Reilly built a stone school building on Fourth Street between Sixth and Seventh Avenues in the same block with the parish church, which is still serving the educational needs of the parish.

In 1890 Father Thomas Smith, who later became Vicar General of the diocese and a Domestic Prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor, organized the Sacred Heart parish for Catholics living in the southeast section of the city. For a time classes were held in a storeroom at Ninth Avenue and Eighteenth Street, but soon a combination church and school building was erected on Sixth Avenue and between Twentieth and Twenty-first Streets, the first floor serving as church and the second floor being partitioned into six classrooms. Later a frame annex containing two school-rooms was added. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Ebensburg have taught in the school from the beginning.

For many years Blair County was a part of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, but on May 27, 1901, the Diocese of Altoona was formed, and the Very Reverend Eugene A. Garvey was appointed to serve as the first Bishop.

As the number of Italian-speaking immigrants increased in Altoona, Bishop Garvey formed a mission center for them in 1905 which was given to the Fathers of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis with Father Jerome Zazzara, T. O. R., D. D., as Superior, on December 31, 1909. The



Altoona Catholic High School.
Corner Sixth Avenue and Eleventh Street.

mission under the title of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel was given the status of a parish in 1911. An old storeroom at Eighth Avenue and Eleventh Street was used as a temporary chapel, and a school was opened September 8, 1911, on the second floor of a building formerly used by the Fathers for living quarters. The enrollment of three hundred pupils resulted in crowded conditions and a new school building was erected.

On October 22, 1920, the Most Reverend John J. McCort, D. D., became Bishop of Altoona, and fervidly interested in the moral welfare of youth, he directed the building of the Altoona Catholic High School at Sixth Avenue and Eleventh Street. He appointed Father Urban J. Peters to the office of Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, an appointment that was given to the writer of this article in July, 1929. Father Patrick Harkins was named principal of the high school and has served in that capacity to the present time, an efficient administrator, a competent supervisor, and a prudent counselor of youth. The first registration of one hundred and ninety-three pupils was held September 5, 1922, but as the construction of the school had not been completed the classes were held in parish schools until February 5, 1923. The average yearly enrollment has been five hun-



Courtesy Mr. Paul A. Canty

Photo of Altoona's early log homes.

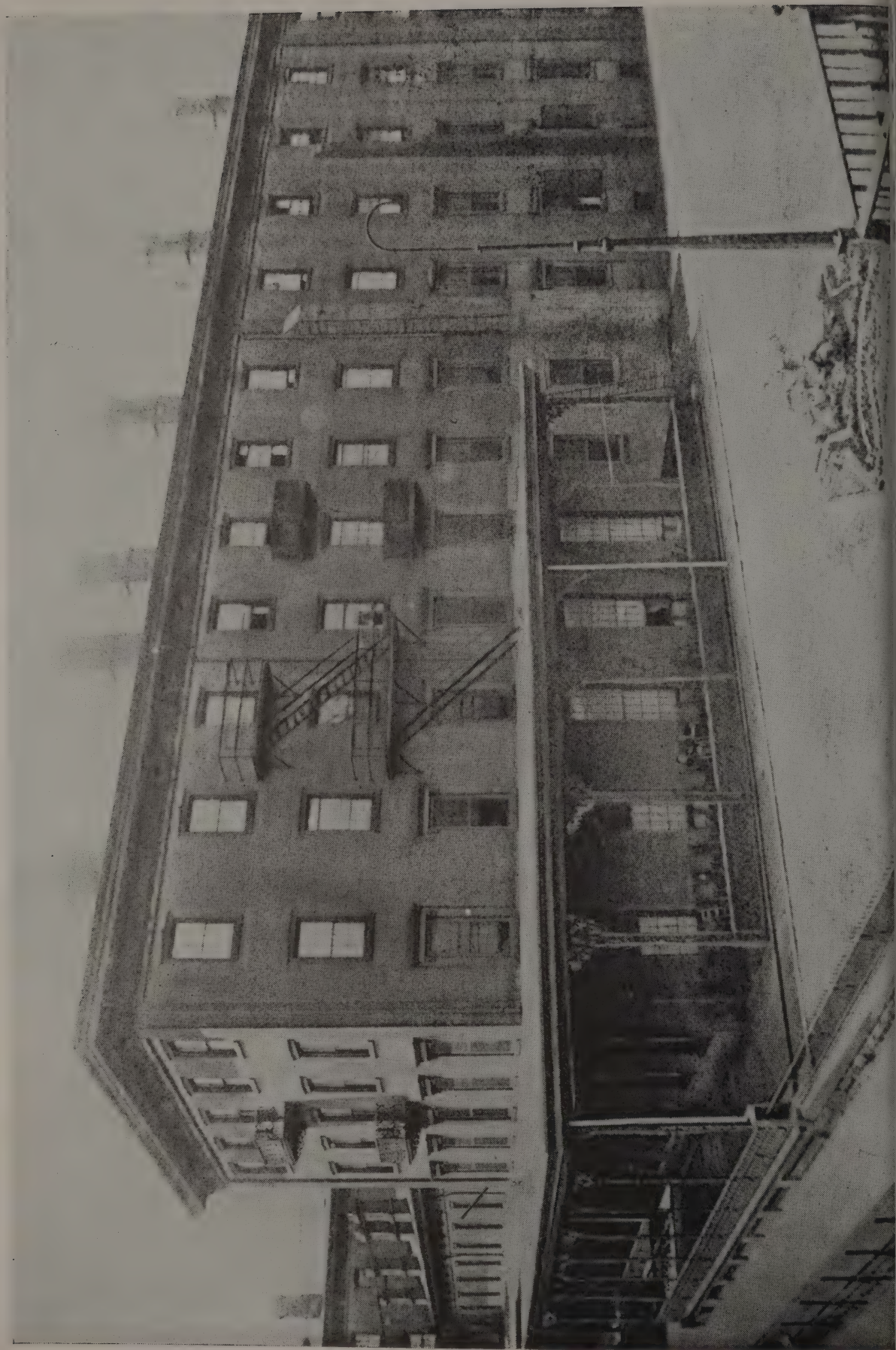
dred boys and girls, and the average graduating class has consisted of seventy-eight pupils. To date fifteen hundred and seventy-six young men and women have graduated, and of these graduates four hundred and eighty served in the armed forces in World War II.

In February, 1911, Father Julius Langer was appointed assistant pastor of St. Mary's parish with the special duty of ministering to the Polish-speaking people of Altoona and vicinity. He directed the construction of a church on Nineteenth Street between Nineteenth and Twentieth Avenues, and was appointed first pastor of the new parish that was formed under the patronage of Saints Peter and Paul. In 1917 he partitioned the church basement into two rooms and invited the Bernardine Sisters of St. Francis, of Reading, Pa., to instruct the children. Father Langer was succeeded July 23, 1918, by Father Joseph Wozny, who built a combination brick building with a basement hall, four classrooms on the first floor, and convent quarters for the Sisters on the second floor.

Father Michael Canole, a native of Altoona, was appointed by Bishop Garvey on June 19, 1911, to organize St. Leo's parish for the people of the Fifth Ward and West Altoona. A vacant garage on Eighteenth Street between Tenth and Eleventh Avenue served as a chapel until Christmas Day, 1912, when the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was offered for the first time in the new stone church at Twelfth Avenue and Twentieth Street. The boys and girls of the parish continued to attend old St. John's School until the new parish school, containing eight rooms and an auditorium, was opened by Father Canole in September, 1925, with the Sisters of Charity in charge of the instruction of the children.

Father Joseph Farran was commissioned March 11, 1923, by Bishop McCort to organize a parish in the Broad Avenue district between the Main Line and Branch Line of the Pennsylvania Railroad. A temporary structure served as a church for the new parish of Our Lady of Lourdes until the combination church and school on West Chestnut Avenue between Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth Streets was completed early in 1927. The school was opened January 4, 1927, though the building was not yet finished, and the first Solemn Mass was offered in the church February 11, 1927, the Feast of the Apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes. The building has a basement church, nine classrooms, and an auditorium.

On December 15, 1936, the Most Reverend Richard T. Guilfoyle, D. D., who had been Chancellor of the Diocese of Erie for many years before his elevation to the Episcopacy, November 30, 1936, was installed as third Bishop of Altoona. Bishop Guilfoyle has been vitally interested in the religious, mental, civic, and physical welfare of the children and youth of the diocese. Under his direction, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, with classes in religion for children and discussion groups for adults, flourishes in every parish. He has been active in promoting athletics for boys, and has fostered the Boy Scout movement in the diocese. He has also sponsored the revival of Church music in accordance with the best traditions of ecclesiastical chant, and the training of altar boys for participation in church services.





Courtesy Pennsylvania Railroad

Logan House and canopy to the train shed
of the railroad.

Logan House Has Unique History

It Was Erected When Altoona Was But a Village

WHEN the officers of the Pennsylvania railroad selected that portion of the Logan valley now known as Altoona as the most available site for the permanent location of their machine shops in the year 1849, only a few farms had been cleared, the rest of the land being almost a wilderness. The Old Portage railroad was the only means of rail travel, the Pennsy line not yet having been completed from the east to Altoona.

The company officials foresaw that with the completion of the railroad it would be necessary to care for passengers over night at the base of the eastern slope of the mountain, and for that reason the Logan House was built. It was one of the largest hotels in the state and was conducted as a part of the Keystone Hotel company, formed to manage this and other hotels along the line of the railroad.

Its history dates back to 1853, when it was constructed under the supervision of Thomas Buchnell, who was at that time foreman of the railroad carpenters.

The land upon which the Logan House stood was a part of the old Robinson farm and was at one time nothing more nor less than a quagmire. In the spring it became a veritable inland lake and wild ducks were often shot on the surface of the water.

At the time of its erection, there was some discussion as to what the name of the new hotel should be. As there were porches built on three sides, a number favored the name of "Verandah House," but the choice not being unanimous, a compromise was effected by naming it the Logan House.

It originally contained 106 bedrooms, many of them having a small balcony beneath the windows; also three large parlors and other rooms.

The dining room in the earlier years was used as one long room. Painted on the wall in the center of the room, back of the lunch counter, was a life size portrait of Chief Logan.

Years ago when the passenger trains came into the city, the head waiter would go to the porch and there vigorously pound a large Chinese gong, summoning the passengers to the tables. In those days the trains usually had a twenty-minute layover and the Logan House was the only available lunching place.

The first superintendent of this famous hostelry was John P. Thompson, he having given up canal boating to accept the new position. This was before the building was completed, and for some time the dining tables consisted of boards laid upon trestles, wooden benches being used instead of chairs. Following Mr. Thompson a Mr. Miller accepted the management. In 1868, J. D. McClellan became manager and continued ten years, when W. D. Tyler succeeded him. Six years later W. R. Dunham was elected superintendent and held the position until January 1898, when J. P. McWilliams took charge. Mr. McWilliams had formerly been in charge of the Mountain House at Cresson and had the honor of having conducted it in the last year of its existence as a house of public entertainment.

An historical review of the Logan House would be incomplete were the name of Major Robert Adams omitted. From 1868 to 1912, forty-four years in all, he was to be found regularly each morning in his place behind the counter giving his thoughtful consideration to the welfare of the weary traveler.

In the year 1872 an annex consisting of seventy bedrooms was added on the Twelfth street side, but before it was completed, on March 20, 1872, a bitter cold night, it was almost completely destroyed by fire. However, the main structure was not damaged. The work of rebuilding was taken up immediately and carried on to completion without further delay.

For a number of years the first floor on the Twelfth street wing was used by the Mechanics' library and beginning in 1903 two floors of the major portion of this wing were utilized to house the offices of the Middle division of the Pennsylvania railroad. The Library was then moved to the old First Presbyterian church building across the avenue.

After its founding many notables were entertained within its confines. Presidents Grant, Hayes, Harrison and Taft were the nation's chief executives who lodged in the Logan House while holding office. Governors Andrew G. Curtin, D. H. Hastings, James A. Beaver, William A. Stone, Robert

E. Pattison, Edwin S. Stewart and Martin G. Brumbaugh were often guests there. General Philip H. Sheridan, General William T. Sherman and Judge Agnew of the Supreme Court were also guests. For two years, General Sherman and family spent part of their summers in Altoona, for in the earlier years it was a sort of summer resort.

The Logan House, made famous by the emergency meeting of the War Governors of the North on September 24-25, 1862, occupies a prominent place in the history of Altoona.

The Governors discussed many important issues in their two-day stay in Altoona. The fitness of McClellan to lead an army was a subject considered; many differed as to whether he should retire. On the matter of Emancipation there was a unity of feeling; so on this basis they decided to address the President. On September 26, 1862, the Governors called in a body on President Lincoln at the White House. They were kindly and heartily received by the President in his usual manner.

Andrew Carnegie was a familiar figure about the Logan House in the days when he lived here and he was often a guest there after he became famous. Robert J. Burdette, the famous humorist, was also a guest at one time. In a magazine article written afterwards, he referred to the house "as being about the size of the state of Rhode Island."

On June 30, 1927 the hotel closed its doors.

On December 5, 1930, the Railroad sold the corner lot of the Logan House property on Eleventh Avenue and Twelfth Street to the Federal Government for the erection of a post office. C. H. Shatzer of Dayton, Ohio, came to Altoona and started the work of razing the annex part of the building. On June 11, 1931 Andrew Kern of Altoona razed the original part of the Logan House.



Altoona—Today

1849 - 1949

G. Stanley Ruth, *Secretary-Manager*

Altoona Chamber of Commerce

ALTOONA, which is known as "The Mountain City," is located thirty-five miles southwest of the geographical center of Pennsylvania. It is situated between two ranges of the Allegheny Mountains, in a wide valley that was used as a highway between the East and West even in the days of Indian trails.

The city is located on the four-track main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, 99 miles from Pittsburgh and 235 miles from Philadelphia. The city is also located near Route 22, the William Penn Highway, the most important East and West route through the State. Altoona is in the midst of the most beautiful scenic district of the great "Keystone State." The same hills and mountains which go to make a panorama of natural beauty about Altoona are underlaid with coal, fireclay, ganister rock and sand, all of which are valuable natural resources to this section.

The first house in Altoona, one of logs, was built in 1849. Late the following year, the erection of the Altoona shops on a small scale was begun. With the completion of the first of the railroad repair shops the village began to grow rapidly. In 1860 it had a population of 3,591. Then came the Civil War and Altoona became a place of importance as a railroad terminal. By 1870 its population had grown to 10,610. Each succeeding decade has shown a steady growth.

The leading industrial interest in the City of Altoona is the Pennsylvania Railroad Company which operates its leading car shops in this city. These are the largest car shops in the world and give employment to more than 12,000 people. Great steam and electric locomotives, the last word in modern types, are built at Altoona. The Altoona shops also produce freight and passenger cars and a great variety of miscellaneous railroad equipment.

While the name Altoona is synonymous with railroad manufacturing and repair shops, many other industries, manufacturing units and business enterprises are located here. Approximately 4,500 people are employed in 16 industrial establishments located in the city, manufacturing such items as silk, men's work garments, men's shirts, men's sport clothes, slacks, bathing suits, hunting clothes, knitted wear, mattresses, casual shoes, children's sandals, electric products, including radio tubes, ladies' garment patterns, brick, cinder, and concrete blocks, monuments, shuttlecocks for the badminton game, candy, foundry and mill supplies, art glass and mirrors, furniture polish, meat packing products, confectionery, ice cream and dairy products, relish, noodles, potato chips, pretzels, drugs, plastics, auto bodies and frozen farm products.



Interior view of the Butterick Pattern Company, Altoona's newest industry.

The following is a list of the principal industries of the city: Altoona Factories, Altoona Mattress Manufacturing Company, Altoona Pipe & Steel Supply Company, Altoona Rayon Weaving Mills, Bing-Cooper, Inc., Blair Shirt Corporation, Boyer Bros. Manufacturing Confectioners, Brumbaugh Body Company, Butterick Pattern Company, Paragon Textile Company, Penn Public Spring & Wheel Service, Pennsylvania Railroad Company, Puritan Knitting Mills Corporation, R. S. L. Shuttlecocks Company, Schwarzenbach Huber Company, Suter Chemical Company, Sturdi Maid Furniture Company, Sylvania Electric Products Company, Vincent Horwitz Company, Lamont Footwear Company, The Werner Athletic Shoe Company, Modern Cabinet and Construction Company, Frozen Farm Products, Inc. (Sky Bros.).

The total value of manufactured products in 1948 in Altoona was in excess of \$125,000,000. The total industrial payroll for the same year exceeded \$65,000,000, with total industrial employment in excess of 20,000.

Population Trend—Both Altoona and Blair County have enjoyed a steady growth of population over the years with no sharp increases or decreases. While the city of Altoona has shown a slight decrease during the decade 1930 to 1940, the area has gained a bit, showing that the people have moved into the suburban areas outside of the corporate limits of the city but are still within the metropolitan and trading area.

Since the cessation of hostilities of World War II, it is estimated that our population has again come back to the 1930 figure because industrial employment and housing occupancy has shown a decided increase during the last four years.

The following tabulation shows the County and City population figures over the past forty-eight years, according to the U. S. Census.

Year	County Population	City Population
1900	85,099	38,973
1910	108,858	52,127
1920	128,334	60,331
1930	139,840	82,054
1940	140,358	80,214
1948 (estimated)	144,000	82,000

Altoona Commerce—The economic characteristics of Altoona have shown an interesting, sound and progressive development in keeping with the general growth of the city in such categories as Banking, Building and Loan Associations, Retailing, Wholesaling and among Service Trade Establishments.

Our three banks, which include two Trust Companies and one National Bank, show a growth in total deposits in the last ten year period from \$15,000,000 in 1939 to an excess of \$40,000,000 in 1949. During the same period, their total resources grew from \$18,000,000 to \$45,000,000.

There are a total of five State Building and Loan Associations and one Federal Savings and Loan Association with assets in excess of \$10,600,000.

There are 106 Wholesale Establishments in the city employing 850 persons which do an annual volume of business in excess of \$28,700,000.

There are 944 Retail Establishments in Altoona which employ 4,150 persons and do an annual volume of business of nearly \$75,000,000.

There are 420 Service Establishments in the city which employ 1,325 persons and do an annual volume of business in excess of \$5,000,000.

Transportation: Railroad—The Pennsylvania Railroad gives Altoona complete main line passenger and freight service. Because Altoona is a division point, all passenger trains on the main line stop here. There are approximately 33 East bound and 33 West bound trains scheduled daily. The fastest train service from Altoona to New York City is 5 hours, 41 minutes, covering 325.4 miles.

Bus Service—The Blue and White Bus Lines (local and interstate) offer a complete service to all neighboring communities in central Pennsylvania, including Johnstown and Cumberland, Maryland.

The Altoona and Logan Valley Electric Railway Company is rapidly changing to complete urban and inter-urban bus service and gives the citizens adequate surface transportation.

The Greyhound Lines operate interstate service with four East bound and four West bound busses daily.

Motor Truck Service—Altoona is served with an unusually complete motor trucking service which connects with all major lines in the United States. One line conducts a daily service between all points in Central Pennsylvania to points in New York, New Jersey, New England, Baltimore, Washington, D. C., Richmond and Norfolk.

Tonnage facilities are unlimited and can render daily overnight service within a radius of 325 miles.



Courtesy Altoona Chamber of Commerce
Hotel Penn-Alto, corner of Twelfth Street and Thirteenth Avenue. A community project
built in 1921.

Commercial Air Travel—Altoona and the area is now served by regular commercial passenger air service which includes six flights daily, three East and three West, by the All American Airways, Inc. This service covers the important cities between Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Philadelphia and Atlantic City and makes satisfactory connections for transcontinental travel in any section of the country.

The Altoona Aviation Corporation, located on Route 220, 10 miles North of Altoona, conducts a very satisfactory charter service to any section of the country.

Labor—As a result of the many technical skills required over the years to manufacture locomotives and railroad equipment, Altoona, today, has an abundant supply of highly skilled and semi-skilled workers. Ninety-five percent of these workers are American born.

Altoona has always been free of labor disturbances. Altoona workers are home owners and loyal employees. The Altoona Educational facilities can train employees to order for any vocational skill.

The Vocational Department of the Altoona High School and the Pennsylvania State College Technical Institute, located in Altoona, train men and women for all skills and trades needed in the community. All workers have a high level of intelligence.

Utilities—The Pennsylvania Electric Company, Eastern Division, has a total steam generating capacity of 103,500 kilowatts; a hydro-electric generator capacity of 4,625 kilowatts.

The closest bituminous coal producing fields are within ten miles of Altoona from the Cambria and Broad Top area.

The People's Natural Gas Company, a subsidiary of the Consolidated Natural Gas Company, serves Altoona from its own pipe line extending from its own fields in Western Pennsylvania. Connections exist with its affiliated company, the Hope Natural Gas Company, in West Virginia.

District headquarters of Bell Telephone System, covering a large area in Central Pennsylvania, includes territory between Clearfield, State College, and Lewistown, as well as Lock Haven and Renova, with a total of twenty-seven exchanges.

Agriculture—Although Blair County does not boast of a large percentage of the State's agricultural products, the southern area, known as the Cove Valley, ranks among the most fertile land in the country, and dairy farming is the principal phase of agriculture.

There are 1931 farms which have 79,120 acres under cultivation, with a land and building valuation in excess of \$15,000,000.

The value of crops in 1948 was in excess of \$3,000,000; the value of live stock (including poultry) was \$3,500,000.

Municipal—Altoona has a Third Class Commission Form of government which includes a Mayor and four commissioners.

The gross assessed valuation in 1948 was \$83,240,880 and the net tax valuation was \$72,125,455.

The City tax millage is 12 mills, the School 18 mills, and the County $9\frac{3}{4}$ mills.

The Altoona Fire Department is paid and motorized. It has a personnel of 86 men with ten stations, including two Pennsylvania Railroad stations.

The Police Department covers the protective needs of the city with 65 men and two women.

The city has an unusually large paved street area to be maintained. The total mileage of streets in the city is in excess of 300, of which nearly 70% is paved. The city maintains street cleaning and garbage collection systems.

According to the last U. S. Census, Altoona has 18,005 residential structures and 3,773 multiple dwelling units. A recent survey indicates that more than 75% of the homes in the city are owner occupied. This is considerably higher than the national average of 56%.

The municipally owned water supply is obtained from mountain fed streams and stored in five main reservoirs and fed to the city by gravity. There are three additional auxiliary water reservoirs in the city and one stand pipe.

Education—Altoona's educational system is recognized by educators as progressive and efficient. Its plant facilities and enrollment are as follows:

Public Schools—enrollment, 11,000; teachers, 436; buildings, 30.

Parochial Schools—enrollment, 3,200; teachers, 82; buildings, 9.

Colleges—There are two Business Colleges; Altoona School of Commerce and Zeth Business School. Pennsylvania State College conducts an Undergraduate Center in Altoona with an enrollment of nearly 1,000. Complete Freshman and Sophomore years of college work are given.

The city has a Public Library with 75,000 volumes.

The Blair County Historical Society is located in a beautiful setting, on the historical estate of the old Baker Mansion.

General Information—There are two city hospitals, the Altoona Hospital with 314 beds, and the Mercy Hospital with 140 beds. Also a U. S. Veteran's Hospital with 200 beds. A Pennsylvania State Mental Hospital with 1,500 beds is to be built in 1950, together with a new County Home Hospital.

There are seven clinics in Altoona covering Baby, Pre-Natal, V.D., T.B., and Cancer.

There are a number of hotels in the city, including the Penn Alto with 300 rooms; the Colonial, 61 rooms; the Taylor, 45 rooms; the William Penn, 65 rooms; the Milner, 85 rooms, and the Crystal, 35 rooms.

There are two daily newspapers published in the city. The Altoona Mirror, evening, with approximately 34,000 circulation, and the Altoona Tribune, morning, with approximately 9,000 circulation.

Altoona has four radio stations: WFBG-FM, NBC; WJSW-FM, Mutual; WRTA, ABC and WVAM, Columbia. Television is expected to be established by 1950.

There are nine civic service and luncheon clubs with national affiliation represented in Altoona.

Altoona boasts of both a well equipped and adequately managed YMCA and YWCA.

All Social, Welfare and Recreational Agencies are provided for with a well managed Community Chest which cares for twenty-one agencies. The Blair County Chapter, American Red Cross, covers complete services for most of Blair County.

The Blair County Motor Club, which is affiliated with the AAA, has headquarters in the Penn Alto Hotel.

There are more than 100 churches in Altoona, which include all of the leading faiths.

There are two public farmers' markets in Altoona where fresh farm products are made available twice weekly.

Recreation—The parks and playgrounds in Altoona cover approximately 140 acres, of which 21.4 are in playgrounds; 16.4 in playfields; 2 swimming pools; 9 baseball diamonds; 11 softball courts; 10 tennis courts and 3 picnic areas.

A new recreational program has been established in 1949 under the direction of a paid supervisor supported partly by municipal and school taxes and partly by private contributions.

The city has several athletic fields to accommodate most of the larger athletic functions that occur throughout the year, among which are the Cricket Field with seating capacity of 3,000 and the Mansion Park Athletic Field which has a seating capacity of 9,000.

Lakemont Park is a popular amusement park with a large lake for boating in the summer and ice skating in the winter. It also has a large, state approved swimming pool.

The city of Altoona has 10 theatres and moving picture houses.

The Jaffa Mosque contains a large, modernly equipped stage with an auditorium seating capacity of 4,000.

Sports—There are two very good 9-hole golf courses available to those interested in the sport, the Blairmont Country Club and the Park Hills Golf course.

Basketball is a popular sport throughout the city and Altoona boasts of an outstanding professional basketball team affiliated with the All American Tri-State League. These games are played at the Jaffa Mosque.

Baseball plays a prominent part throughout the city and county. There is also an inter-service club softball league and 8 independent leagues.

There are two roller skating rinks available, one at the Jaffa Mosque and another at the famous Lakemont Park, open the year around.

There are 11 privately sponsored bowling alleys in Altoona with 32 active men's leagues affiliated with the ABC. There are also 11 women's leagues affiliated with WIBC.

There is a well known small bore rifle association which conducts shoots regularly and is affiliated with the National Rifle Association. There is also a Skeet League, a Revolver League and a Blair County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.

Because of the geographical location in the midst of the finest fishing and hunting region of Pennsylvania, the city and county have an unusual

interest in game sports. More than 12,000 persons are licensed hunters and anglers in Blair County.

Social and Cultural—Altoona boasts of a first class Civic Symphony Orchestra recognized by leading authorities as one of the finest symphony groups in the country. It is composed of more than 100 local musicians and each year the symphony organization brings to Altoona a series of famous artists.

The city also sponsors a Civic Music Association which brings to Altoona noted concert programs during the winter months.

The Little Theatre Guild, made up of local groups interested in dramatics, sponsors interesting and talented productions each year.

Lecture courses are sponsored regularly by various civic groups such as the High School faculty organization, the Women's Club, Junior Hadassah, and other service clubs.

Always a progressive and advancing city, Altoona's growth has been accelerating in recent years. What was once a one-industry town is now benefited by a family of 17 varied types of industrial establishments which provide an important supplementary payroll and community income.

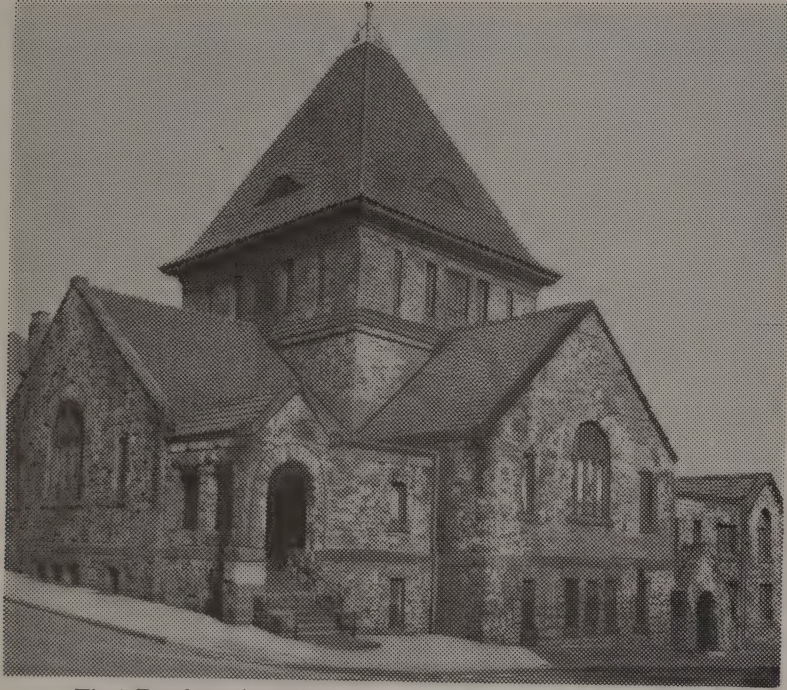
Under the guidance of a capable industrial committee with a recognized and successful program, the Altoona Chamber of Commerce is working diligently to increase industrial diversification in its program to stabilize the economy of Altoona and the area.

The city faces the future with confidence and in the growing conviction that Altoona is daily becoming a more desirable place in which to live.

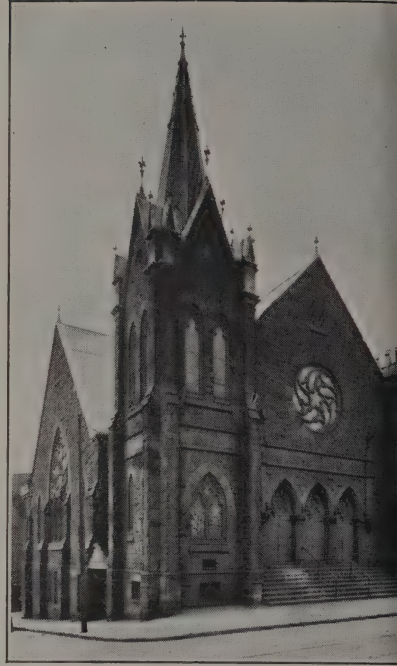
A Chronological Table of Noteworthy Dates and Events In Altoona History

1849 - 1949

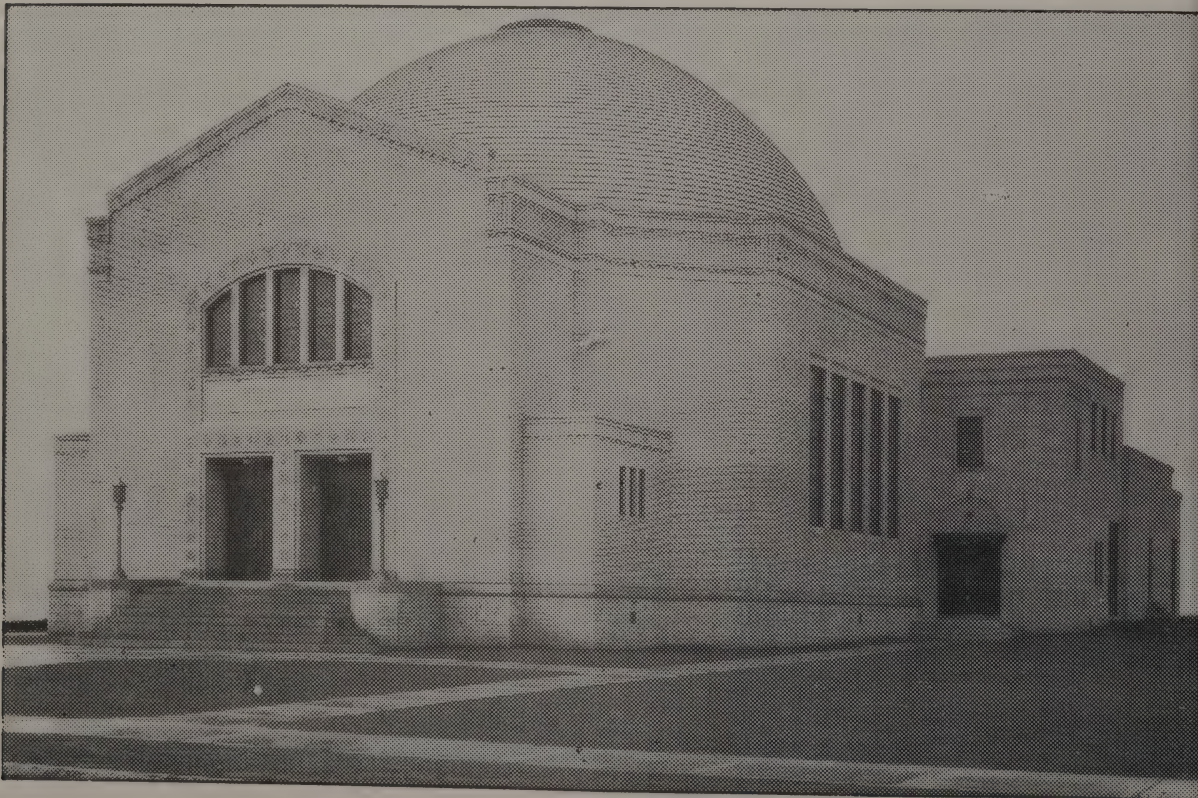
- 1849** The deed of the land from David Robeson to Archibald Wright for Altoona was recorded in the register and recorder's office in Hollidaysburg on April 24, 1849.
The firm of Adlum and Ervin built the first store building in Altoona.
- 1850** John Loudon began business in Altoona as a merchant August 18, 1850, on the corner of 11th Avenue and 14th Street.
Railroad was completed from the east, single track, extending from Altoona to New Portage Junction.
The Altoona Post Office was established at 1402 12th Avenue on November 1, 1850.
George C. Ferree was appointed postmaster on November 1, 1850.
The formal organization of the First United Brethren in Christ Church was established.
- 1851** The first lots in Altoona were sold to the First Presbyterian Church at 12th Avenue and 13th Street. The deed was recorded in Hollidaysburg on February 11, 1851.
Clement Jaggard began business as a merchant in Altoona on 10th Avenue.
- 1852** Henry A. Sellers put up a building at 1408 11th Avenue where he kept a store.
St. John's Church was started.
First Presbyterian Church organized.
Thomas Elway was appointed postmaster on January 29, 1852.
- 1853** The first bank established in Altoona was that of Bell, Johnson, Jack & Company.
Altoona City Band, oldest musical organization, was founded.
St. John's Church dedicated.
The First Methodist Church organized.
Mountain Lodge No. 281, F. & A. M.
Father John Tuigg was appointed pastor of old St. John's parish, now the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Altoona.
The Altoona Post Office was changed from 1402 12th Avenue to 11th Avenue near the old First Lutheran Church on May 21, 1853.
Henry A. Sellers was appointed postmaster on May 21, 1853.
- 1854** Altoona was incorporated as a borough with a population of about 2,000 people.
The Logan House in Altoona was built by the Railroad Company.
The First Methodist Church was dedicated.
- 1855** The "Altoona Register" was published in Altoona during the year of 1855.
Mountain Commandery No. 10, Knights Templar, was founded.
The First Presbyterian Church was destroyed by fire.



First Presbyterian Church, located Fourteenth Avenue and Twelfth Street.



First Lutheran Church, located Twelfth Avenue and Fourteen Street.

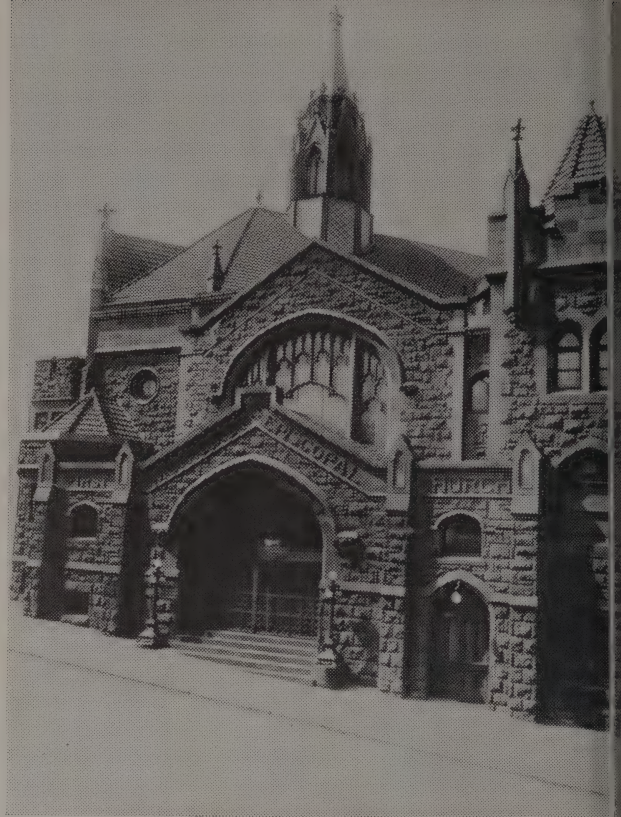


The Temple Beth Israel, located at Allegheny Furnace.

- 1856** Dr. C. T. Hirst was elected first member of the Blair County Medical Society from Altoona in 1856.
The "Altoona Tribune" was first published January 1, 1856.
On September 20, 1856, John Shoemaker was appointed postmaster.
- 1857** Mountain Council No. 9, Royal and Select Masters, was founded.
- 1858** The place of meeting of the Blair County Medical Society was changed from Hollidaysburg to the Logan House in 1858 with Dr. William R. Finley presiding.
Mountain Royal Arch Chapter No. 189 was founded.
St. Luke's Church was incorporated as a parish.
- 1859** The first water works in Altoona was owned and operated by the Altoona Gas and Water Company, a private corporation which began to supply the borough with water December 15, 1859. The first gas for illuminating purposes was furnished by the same company beginning at the same time.
On April 21, 1859, the Citizens Engine and Hose Company was organized. Alex A. Smyth was elected President pro tem; W. H. Smith, Secretary; Archie Maxwell, J. L. Ickes, W. W. Smith, A. A. Smyth and J. R. Russell were chosen a committee to draft a Constitution and By-laws, which were adopted at a meeting held May 7. The following officers were elected: President, C. R. Hostetter; Vice-President, A. A. Smyth, who later was chosen to be Altoona's first chief of the volunteer fire department and served until 1867; Secretary, W. H. Smith; Assistant Secretary, J. R. Russell. The Citizens Engine and Hose Company upon delivery of an engine changed their name to the Goodwill Fire Engine and Hose Company, No. 1, and gave their first drill on Thanksgiving Day and their first ball on December 22. Stephen A. Potts who afterwards became the first Mayor of Altoona was a member of this company. The first building occupied by the Goodwill Company was built at 9th Avenue and 12th Street by the Pennsylvania Railroad. They then moved to a one story frame building located at the alley between 5th and 6th Avenues and in 1885 moved into a brick building which is now used by City Companies No. 2 and No. 5.
- 1860** St. Mary's Church was constructed at 5th Avenue and 14th Street with Father C. Schuler as the resident pastor.
Altoona Mechanics Library and Reading Room Association was founded.
- 1861** St. James Lutheran Church was organized.
The Altoona Post Office was moved from its 11th Avenue location on May 6, 1861, to the Patton Building which stood on a portion of the ground on which the William F. Gable Company enlarged their present store.
George W. Patton was appointed to the office of postmaster on May 6, 1861.
On April 15, 1861, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, issued a proclamation declaring war on the seceded Southern States.



First Baptist Church, located Twelfth Avenue and Seventeenth Street.



First Methodist Church, located Twelfth Avenue and Thirteenth Street.

On April 18, troops comprising the Juniata Rifles of Hollidaysburg, The Hollidaysburg Fensibles and the Wayne Guards from Williamsburg passed through Altoona on their way to Harrisburg in answer to President Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers.

On April 20, Company B, "The Altoona Guards" under Captain Henry Wayne, and Company E, "The Logan Rifle Rangers" under Captain Jacob S. Szink, 3rd Pa. Vol. Infantry, were mustered into service for a three month period.

On August 9, 1861, part of Co. M, 62nd Pa. Vol. Inf., "The Blair County Sharp Shooters" under Captain Richard J. Crozier, was mustered for three years' service and participated in battles at Antietam, Md., Gettysburg, Pa., and Virginia.

On August 27, Co. F, 31st Pa. Vol. Inf., under Captain John M. Clarke was mustered into service for three years and participated in the battle of Gettysburg. Forty-four members were transferred later to Co. A, 191st Pa. Vol. Inf., of which number 21 were captured at Weldon Station, Va., ten of them dying in rebel prisons. On October 17, Co. F, 76th Pa. Vol. Inf., under Captain Henry Wayne was mustered into service for the war's duration and saw action in Virginia and South Carolina. Captain Wayne was killed at Pocotaligo, S. C.

1862 The War Governors' Conference was held at the Logan House, September 24-25, 1862.

On August 16, Co. D, under Captain Jacob S. Szink, and Co. K, under Captain Joseph W. Gardner, 125th Pa. Vol. Inf., were mustered into service for nine months and participated in the battles of Antietam, Md., and Chancellorsville, Va.

- 1863** Christ Church was founded in Altoona.
On June 14, an emergency force including a battalion of infantry under Colonel Jacob S. Szink was organized to repel a threatened invasion of the rebel army under General Robert E. Lee. This force, later known as "The Chicken Raiders," fortified McKee's Gap and advanced to Everett, then returned without being mustered into service, being replaced by regular troops just prior to the Battle of Gettysburg.
On July 1, Co. C, under Captain Henry B. Huff, and Co. D, under Captain Thomas E. Campbell, 46th Pa. Militia, were mustered into service for the emergency and performed guard service at Philadelphia.
On September 9, Troop L, 19th Pa. Cavalry under Captain D. Ross Miller was mustered into service for the duration and saw service in Tennessee and Louisiana.
- 1864** Frohsinn Singing Society founded.
- 1865** The Second State Medical Society meeting was held in Blair County at the First Presbyterian Church in Altoona in 1865. Dr. D. Lass of Altoona was the State Society's president at that time, the first from Blair County.
On February 25, Co. E, 104th Pa. Inf., under Captain Robert Johnson was mustered into service and saw service at Petersburg, Va. On April 9, General Lee's army in Virginia surrendered at Appomattox Court House to General U. S. Grant, commander of the Union Army.
President Abraham Lincoln died from assassin's bullet on April 15, 1865.
- 1866** The Hook and Ladder Company of Altoona became a permanent organization on September 13, 1866. The first officers elected were President, Levi Cameron; Vice-President, Joseph L. Shaffer; Treasurer, Levi Geesey; Secretary, Levi Burley; Assistant Secretary, Thomas Miller. Their first fire house was located on 14th Street between Annie and Virginia Streets (now 10th and 11th Avenues). On December 1, the Logan Zuaves, the first military unit to be organized following the close of the Civil War, consisting of men who had seen service during the war, was organized.
- 1867** On February 9, the Logan Zuaves under Captain Frank R. Stewart was mustered into the Pennsylvania Militia.
On June 4, the Pennsylvania Railroad's first steam fire engine was placed in service in charge of W. A. Adams and Adam Moss. This fire company then became known as the Altoona Steam Fire Company. A second class Amoskeag steam fire engine was purchased for them and this was the first steam fire engine brought to Altoona. The department was organized under the direction of Master Mechanic Worsdell and Superintendent Williams.
The Soldiers Monument in Fairview Cemetery was erected July 4, 1867.
Father John Tuigg, resident pastor of St. John's Parish, began construction of a massive brick building, a combination school and convent on 13th Avenue near 13th Street.
- 1868** Altoona's city charter was produced in February, 1868.
The Eighth Avenue Methodist Church was founded.
On March 26, a few of the prominent people of the town met in

- Wolfe's clothing store to organize the Vigilant Steam Fire Engine Company No. 2. Officers elected were President, B. F. Rose; Vice-President, John Lloyd; Secretary, C. M. Hackett; Treasurer, E. B. McCrum. On July 4, the steam fire engine which had been purchased by Council who placed in their fire house with William Lininger as engineer. This company first occupied a frame building on 12th Avenue. The last officers of the company were President, William P. Pimlott, who later was the second chief of the Altoona paid Fire Department and served from 1896 until January 1, 1902, and is still living in the western part of the state; Vice-President, Lou Wolfe, known to many as Carburetor Lou, who is still living. The first Chief of Police of Altoona, Joseph K. Ely, was appointed by Mayor George Potts. His salary was placed at \$50 per month. In addition to the chief there were two other officers on the force.
- 1869** Second Presbyterian Church was formed in Altoona. Professor John Miller was appointed the first City Superintendent of schools in Altoona. Frank B. Stewart was appointed postmaster on April 5, 1869. On December 7, the Logan Zuaves, a unit of the Pennsylvania Militia, was disbanded.
- 1870** The first publication of the "Altoona Sun" was June 2, 1870. The Webster Building was the first of the city ward schools in Altoona to be started. The Concordia Singing Society was founded. The order of the Sisters of Charity of Mother Seton of Cincinnati, Ohio, was established in Altoona on August 20, 1870. The Vigilant Steam Fire Engine Company built a brick building on the corner of 12th Street and 13th Avenue. The cost was \$17,423 and was used jointly as a fire house and municipal building until the fire company disbanded. It is the present site of City Hall.
- 1871** Christ Second Lutheran Church was organized. Logan No. 490, Free and Accepted Masons, was organized. The Empire Hook and Ladder Company built a building on 10th Avenue between 14th and 15th streets, at a cost of \$10,500. On June 3, the Keystone Guards, under Captain Harry A. Miller, was mustered as a unit of the Pennsylvania National Guard.
- 1872** The Altoona Iron Company was established and its works put into operation. Altoona acquired the water plant and built the first reservoir at Kittanning Point, bringing the water to the city through a twelve inch line. The Simpson Methodist Church was organized. James A. Westbrook was named Chief of Police of Altoona by Mayor Dave Kinch, and was assigned five police officers. He resigned in 1873. The school term was extended to nine months in the city schools.
- 1873** The Second Baptist Church (Negro) of Altoona was organized. Ahavath Achim was organized. The "Altoona Baptist" newspaper was established in November, 1873, in the interest of the First Baptist Church and published for about a year. Patrolman John B. Harnden was named Chief of Police of Altoona.
- 1874** Brethren Church in Altoona was dedicated. D. B. Ream began publication of a temperance paper, the "Living

Age," in 1874, but after a brief period it was purchased by George J. Akers and became a Sunday paper, "The Globe."

The "Altoona Mirror" was founded June 13, 1874, as Altoona's first penny newspaper by Harry Slep. It was established in the Bowman Building at 11th Avenue and 12th Street, as a four-column, four-page paper, which at once met with popular favor and soon was enlarged.

On February 11, the Latta Guards of the Pennsylvania National Guard succeeded the Keystone Guards in name.

On June 30, Co. F, 5th Inf., Pennsylvania National Guard, succeeded the Latta Guards.

On August 1, Co. D, 5th Inf., Pennsylvania National Guard, succeeded Co. F, 5th Inf.

- 1875** Dr. Crawford Irwin became the second president from Blair County of the State Medical Association.

The present eight-grade system was established in the Altoona schools.

- 1876** Altoona Y.M.C.A. was founded.

The first building of the Second Baptist Church was erected.

- 1877** On February 8, 1877, T. Blair Patton was appointed to the office of postmaster.

In 1877, the "Globe," a Sunday paper, became a daily paper. Subsequently it was purchased by John Tomlinson, suspending publication shortly thereafter.

- 1877** On July 20, Post No. 62, Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Pennsylvania, was chartered and named in honor of the memory of Stephen Collins Potts who served as a 2nd Lt. Co. H, 3rd Pa. Vol. Inf., and 1st Lt. Co. M, 62nd Pa. Vol. Inf., and who died December 14, 1872, of wounds received during the battle of Fredericksburg, Va.

On September 5, Co. D, 5th Inf., Pennsylvania National Guard, was disbanded.

- 1878** The Young People's Christian Association was organized.

The "Gospel Trumpet" was established as a newspaper in 1878 by T. B. Patton but had a brief existence.

The "German People's Leader," the first German language newspaper in the county, was founded by Harry Slep on March 28, 1878. The Franciscan Brothers of Loretto established their order in Altoona in September, 1878.

- 1879** The "Altoona Advance" newspaper was founded by Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Rynder on May 3, 1879. It was devoted largely to temperance and was delivered free to every home in the city.

In August, 1879, E. J. Slep began publication of the "Youth's Mirror," first issued monthly, then semi-monthly. It had a promising career, but long since suspended publication.

The "Altoona Sun's" name changed to the "Daily Sun" newspaper on May 2, 1879.

The Excelsior Hose Company was organized April 24. Their first fire house was located in the alley near the Opera House. After a few years reverses were encountered by them and they disbanded for several years but reorganized in 1879. On July 25, 1879, the Excelsior Hose Company No. 3 was formed with eighteen charter members, none of whom were over 18 years of age. The following



G. A. Beckley Drug Store, corner Twelfth Avenue and Twelfth Street. Established in 1880 in the location now occupied by the Sitnek Drug Store. Those shown in the picture, left to right, Frank McBurney, Doctor Blackburn, G. A. Beckley, David McCoullough.

The Brant House, corner of Tenth Avenue and Twelfth Street. One of Altoona's leading hotels in the early days. Built in 1867 by Caroline Schenk and Jacob Alleman. Opened for business May 1, 1868. Sold to the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1913 and removed in 1935.



were the officers elected: President, R. E. Stouffer; Vice-President, H. E. Ferguson; Second Vice-President, William J. Elway; Treasurer, C. Miller; Secretary, H. D. Alexander.

On August 7, Co. D, 5th Inf., Pennsylvania National Guard, under Captain R. W. Guthrie was organized at Elway's Hall.

- 1880** The first telephone exchange in Altoona was established in March, 1880.

Blair County Bar Association was organized.

Altoona was host to the State Medical Society Association in 1880.

"Our Work," a monthly publication, was established in February, 1880, by the Young People's Christian Association of the Second Presbyterian Church, being discontinued in June, 1881.

James Powell was appointed Chief of Police of Altoona by Mayor William T. Howard. He served from 1880 to 1884.

The Excelsior Hose Company erected a building on 10th Street between Chestnut and Lexington Avenue at a cost of \$1,000.

- 1881** In March, 1881, the "German People's Leader" newspaper was purchased by L. G. Lamade, who changed the name to the "Deutsche Volksfuehrer" and continued its weekly publication for sixty-four years, the longest period any Blair County newspaper has been published under one editor. Publication was suspended on March 12, 1942.

The "Altoona Graphic News" began its existence on Sunday, May 27, 1881, as the "Sunday Morning." This newspaper was Altoona's only long-lived Sunday newspaper and for ten years had Altoona's only woman editor as its guiding genius—the late Mrs. M. E. Furey. The company was owned by Dr. M. J. Buck, F. A. Ward and George J. Akers with the latter city editor and business manager.

- 1882** The Fourth Lutheran and St. Paul's Lutheran Churches were organized.

The "Altoona Times" was founded in 1882 by a company headed by Henry A. McPike and conducted as an evening paper.

A street car line with horse drawn cars was opened in Altoona on July 4, 1882.

The Logan Hose Company was organized July 26 with about a membership of twenty-five young men who met in the Goodwill Fire House and the following were the first officers: President, William Fox; Vice-President, T. E. Smith; Secretary, R. W. Crozier; Financial Secretary, T. S. Fettinger; Treasurer, H. E. Gamble. Among the charter members were R. W. Crozier, H. E. Gamble, T. S. Fettinger, J. F. Walsh, H. Renner, H. D. Herr, S. B. Kinch, A. F. Murphy, and A. Garretson. After meeting for some time in the various fire houses a building of their own was secured on 9th Street.

On April 18, Co. D, 5th Inf., Pennsylvania National Guard, was reorganized.

On April 22, Co. D, 5th Inf., Pennsylvania National Guard, under Captain Robert B. Guthrie, was mustered.

- 1883** The Fifth Avenue Methodist Church was organized.
On February 21, Colonel Theodore Burchfield introduced a bill in the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania, which was an act making an appropriation towards the erection of a hospital at the



The first William F. Gable and Company Store in the early 80's.
Located at 1402 Eleventh Avenue.



Courtesy Brehman's Art Studio, Williamsburg
The Baltzell Store, Altoona's first department store, located at Eleventh Avenue and Eleventh Street. Photo taken in the early 80's.

City of Altoona. A public meeting was held on February 26 to secure favorable action on this bill. The bill passed the House of Representatives on May 24 and the Senate of Pennsylvania on June 1. The act was approved by Governor Robert E. Pattison (amount appropriated was \$15,000). On September 21, the Altoona Hospital was incorporated and a charter approved by Honorable John Dean, Judge of Blair County.

During the term of Postmaster Theodore B. Patton, Altoona city carrier service was established.

Fire swept the "Sunday Morning" newspaper offices in July, 1883.

- 1884** The Women's Christian Temperance Union in Altoona was founded. Emanuel Evangelical Church was founded.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company donated to the Altoona Hospital a piece of ground for the erection of a hospital building.

The "Altoona Times" became a morning publication in 1884.

Dan Kinch, brother of Altoona's second mayor, Dave Kinch, was appointed as Chief of Police of Altoona. He established the first systematic patrol arrangement of men being assigned to regular beats with a sergeant to regulate their span of duty.

The Friendship Steam Fire Engine Company Number 6 was organized in July.

- 1885** The Eighth Ward Mission Chapel of Altoona was established.

First contract was awarded for the construction of the Altoona Hospital building on March 23, 1885.

The first building of the Altoona Hospital was completed on November 16, 1885. It was a two-story brick building, 40'x40' with two wings, constructed of wood, one story high, 26'x46'. The capacity of the hospital was twenty-four beds.

The first medical staff of the Altoona Hospital was appointed on November 23, consisting of Dr. John Fay, Chief of Staff, and Drs. William R. Finley, John T. Christy, S. M. Ross and Albert S. Smith. The first Superintendent, Mr. Frank V. Robinson, was elected.

The Friendship Steam Fire Engine Company No. 6 was incorporated November 23, 1885. They erected a brick building on Twenty-second Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues and this building is still occupied as a fire station by the City's paid fire department.

- 1886** An electric company was formed in Altoona.

First patient was admitted for treatment in the Altoona Hospital in February, 1886.

In May, 1886, the first telephone was installed in the Altoona Hospital. The first ambulance was provided on July 26, 1886.

Blair County Sunday School Association was founded.

The "Daily Independent" newspaper was established in 1886 by Rev. W. W. Dunmire and continued as a daily or weekly until 1900, being known in its later years as the "Independent Loyal American."

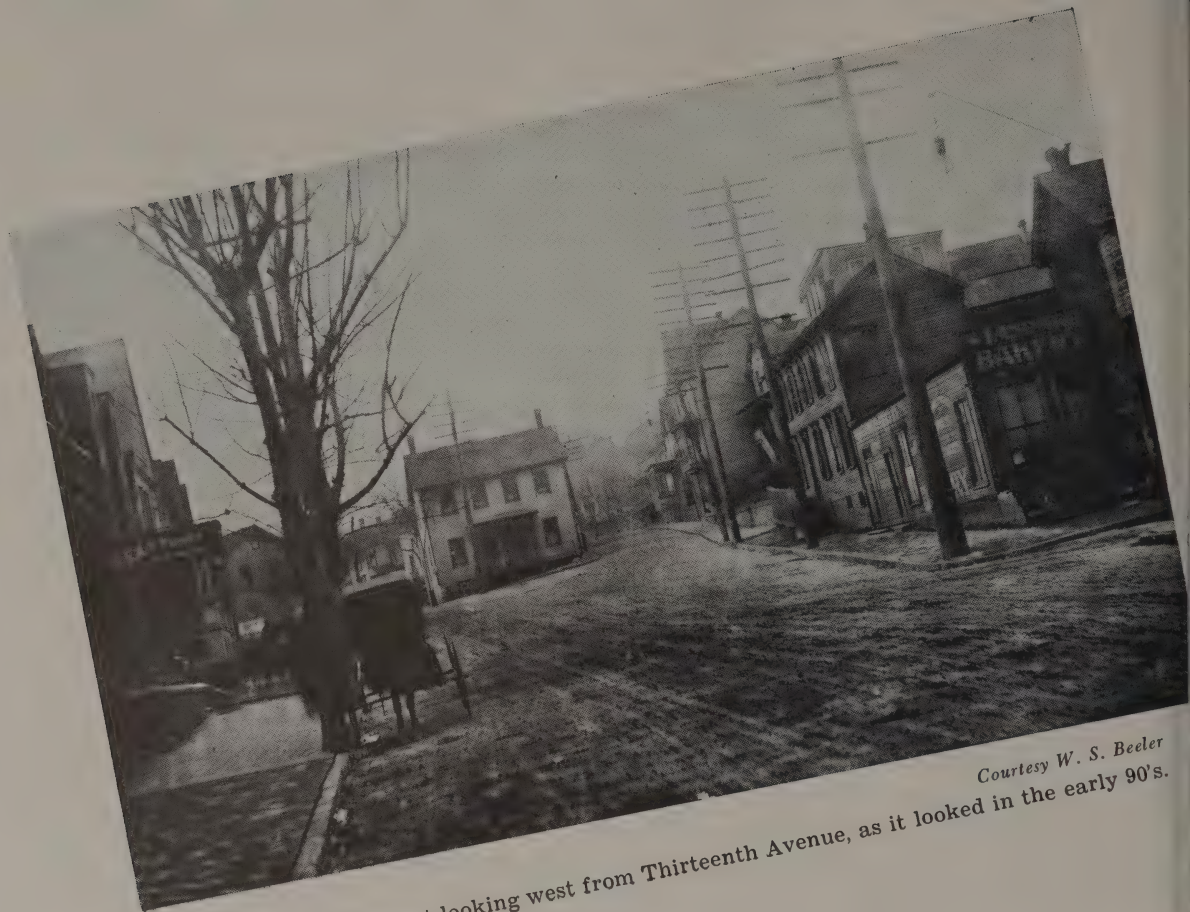
- 1887** The first ward in the Altoona Hospital was opened for female patients.

Passenger station in Altoona was built at its present location.

Bavarian Aid Society was founded.

Altoona Chamber of Commerce was founded.

Mountain City Theatre was built.



Courtesy W. S. Beeler
Sixteenth Street looking west from Thirteenth Avenue, as it looked in the early 90's.



Courtesy Brehman's Art Studio, Williamsburg
Mountain City Theatre. Opened in 1888 and destroyed by fire March 5, 1889.

Altoona Third Presbyterian Church was organized.

Mr. Homer Vaughn, editor and business manager of the "Sunday Morning," began a short-lived newspaper called the "Sunday News," and in 1887 purchased the "Sunday Morning." The consolidated paper was known as the "Graphic News."

The Altoona Fire Patrol Company was organized March 10, 1887, with the following officers serving for the first year: President, George Hyssong; Vice President, Shannon Pike; Secretary, C. M. Orr; Financial Secretary, F. Patterson; Treasurer, T. W. Cole.

On April 13, Co. D., 5th Inf., Pennsylvania National Guard, was disbanded.

On August 20, Encampment Number 12, Union Veterans' League, was chartered, consisting of veterans of the "war of the Rebellion who volunteered prior to the first of July, 1863, for a term of three years." A bronze plaque containing the names and organizations of its members, as of July, 1911, is placed on the American Legion building, 1123 Thirteenth Avenue.

- 1888** The silk mill was erected during the years 1888-1889 and began operating in the spring of 1889.

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Altoona, No. 102, was founded.

Mountain City Theatre was opened.

The Eleventh Avenue Opera House was opened October 1, 1888.

- 1889** Salvation Army was founded.

Mountain City Theatre was destroyed by fire on March 5, 1889. Eighth Ward Mission Chapel became the A. K. Memorial Baptist Church.

St. Mark's Church was founded in April, 1889. Father Nicholas J. O'Reilly was commissioned to organize the parish.

Ladies' Temple Society was organized. It is now known as Beth Israel Sisterhood.

- 1890** On July 4, 1890, the newspaper and job offices of the "Altoona Mirror" were combined under the name of H. & W. H. Slep, and located at 1012 Eleventh Avenue. The name was changed from the "Evening Mirror" to the name of the "Altoona Mirror."

Father Thomas Smith organized the Sacred Heart parish in Altoona at Sixth Avenue between Twentieth and Twenty-first Streets.

Fairview Methodist Church was dedicated.

- 1891** Electric power was applied to the street car system in Altoona on July 4, 1891.

East Side Theatre was built.

World's Museum in the Woodcock Arcade opened.

Albert P. McDonald was appointed to the office of postmaster on December 17, 1891.

Potter, Stahl & Company acquired the "Altoona Times" newspaper on November 26, 1891.

The Hope Steam Fire Engine Company No. 8, which was the last of the volunteer fire companies, was organized on February 11. The charter members of this company were William Breon, William Baker, S. S. Breckbill, Henry Glock, J. S. Brandt, J. W. Bloom, John C. Kaup, James F. Martin, Thomas McKee, Crawford Orr, William Ferguson, J. K. Ross, H. C. Graybill, who was one of the

- original paid firemen and who was appointed the first assistant fire chief April 1, 1904, and retired January 15, 1935, still holding that position; Edward Orr, still living; William Coll, A. R. Garrettson, Ed Brandt, Samuel Hutchinson, John Martin, J. W. Carroll, P. C. Marks, A. W. Fasic, Albert Ross, R. J. Smith, A. R. Wolf, Lewis Brandt, Frank Bradley, and F. G. Temple.
- 1892** The Eden Musee, Menagerie, Curio Hall and Theatorium opened. Lakemont Park Playhouse opened.
Broad Avenue Presbyterian Church was formed.
The "Altoona Gazette" published its first edition in Altoona on April 5, 1892.
First electric lights were installed in the Altoona Hospital.
- 1893** Knights of Malta was founded.
Needlework Guild, Altoona was founded.
A third story 40'x40' was constructed on the main building of the Altoona Hospital and two stories 24'x29' added to the rear addition of the hospital. A new ward was built at the west end of the hospital with a capacity of fourteen beds.
John N. Tillard was appointed Chief of Police in Altoona by Mayor Samuel M. Hoyer.
- 1894** Father Morgan M. Sheedy was appointed pastor of St. John's Church on December 5, 1894.
- 1895** The "Graphic News" newspaper ceased to exist in Altoona.
A paid fire department superseded the volunteers in the work of protecting Altoona from the ravages of fire on May 1, 1895.
"St. John's Quarterly," subsequently known as the "Quarterly," was issued in 1895 by the late Rev. Dr. Morgan M. Sheedy, rector of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament parish. It was devoted to religion, education and literature. It was discontinued in 1925.
Police Lieutenant Amadeas A. Cherry was named Chief of Police of Altoona. He succeeded Chief John N. Tillard who transferred to the Fire Department.
Lincoln school building in Altoona was completed.
A city Talmud Torah was organized.
B'nai B'rith Lodge, No. 1192, was organized.
- 1896** The Altoona Church of the Brethren was dedicated.
Grace Lutheran Church was organized.
The temple of Beth Israel was erected.
On February 7, ordinance number 814 was passed, providing fire regulations within the City of Altoona. This ordinance is the father of the present fire and safety regulations. On April 1, William P. Pimlott was appointed fire chief.
Honorable Josiah D. Hicks, then congressman, introduced a bill into congress providing for a public post office building for Altoona. Mr. Hicks maintained a steadfast effort to have the bill passed and finally succeeded in 1899.
Hambleton P. Wilson was appointed to the office of postmaster on January 7, 1896.
- 1897** The Calvary Baptist Church was founded.
First Lutheran Church, Fourteenth Street and Twelfth Avenue, dedicated.
The "Yellow Dog" publication, later called the "Critic," was issued about 1897 and published monthly until 1905 by Editor Jacob Kinsel.

The Police Patrol responding to all fire alarms took the place of the Fire Patrol Company of Altoona.

The State Firemen's Convention was held in Altoona during the year of 1897.

1898 Ancient Order of Hibernians was founded.

Hiram Lodge No. 616, F. & A. M., was organized.

On April 25, war was declared between the United States and Spain, and President William McKinley called for 125,000 two-year volunteers. The regular army was reorganized and its strength increased from 27,000 to 61,000.

On April 27, units of the Pennsylvania National Guard entrained for Mount Gretna Camp for duty in the Spanish-American War.

On June 12, the Philippine Insurrection was instigated against the American rule under the leadership of Aguinaldo.

On October 17, headquarters for Co. C, 5th Infantry, Pennsylvania National Guard, were established at Altoona following the return of this company from camp in Kentucky. Company C had been organized at Hollidaysburg during the early part of 1879 and served during the Spanish-American War under Captain John H. West.

The treaty ending the war between the United States and Spain was negotiated at Paris on November 10, 1898, freeing Cuba and ceding the Philippines to the United States for the sum of \$20,000,000.

1899 On November 7, 1899, flames swept the old building of the "Altoona Mirror," at 1012 11th Avenue, seriously crippling the plant, but the paper missed but one issue.

On January 7, 1899, Company C, 5th Inf., Pennsylvania National Guard, reorganized and mustered on the 27th under Captain John H. West.

On November 15, 1899, Co. C, 5th Inf., Pennsylvania National Guard, disbanded.

1900 Altoona Hospital Senior Auxiliary was organized.

Altoona Sunshine Society was founded.

First Church of Christ Scientist Altoona was established.

Blair County Pharmaceutical Association was organized.

Modern Woodmen, East Side Camp No. 7825, was founded.

On June 4, American troops participated in a relief expedition into China against the "Boxers" which extended until May 12, 1901.

1901 Knights of Columbus, Altoona Council No. 551, was founded.

United Commercial Travelers of America, Altoona Council No. 180, was founded.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, James L. Noble No. 3, was founded.

Land was purchased and the contract for the erection of a new post office building in Altoona was awarded to Harry A. Knerr of Pottsville, Pa.

Actual work on the new Altoona post office building was started on March 7, 1901, under the direction of Robert A. Greenfield, Superintendent of Construction, and in the afternoon of that day at 4 o'clock, H. P. Wilson, then postmaster, turned the first sod in the work of excavating for the foundation.

The Diocese of Altoona was formed and the Very Reverend Eugene A. Garvey was appointed to serve as the first Bishop, on May 27, 1901.

The "Brown Booklet," established by Harry L. Johnston and Bayard

W. Gable was first issued April 3, 1901, and continued until August of the same year.

The "Deutsche Wacht" was founded as a German language weekly on June 6, 1901, by G. H. Hemminger. Publication was suspended during World War I and has never been resumed.

On May 1 No. 4 Fire Station occupied their station which cost \$6,403. No. 6 Fire Station occupied their station which cost \$5,404, on September 1.

On June 6 a welcome home reception was held for the members of the 43rd U. S. Vol. Inf. upon their return from the Philippine Islands.

On July 10 Unit No. 2, Society of Philippine War Veterans, organized at Eagle House, which later became the James L. Noble Post No. 3, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. James L. Noble served as a Pvt. Co. A, 18th Pa. Inf., later as a Corp., Co. C, 43rd U. S. Inf., and was killed in action near Palo Leyte, Philippine Islands, September 30, 1900.

1902 Altoona Master Plumbers' Association was founded.

Fraternal Order of Eagles, Altoona Aerie No. 286, was founded.

The Eighth Avenue Methodist Church building was dedicated.

The Fifth Avenue Methodist Church was dedicated.

The new Federal Post Office Building, corner Chestnut Avenue and 11th Street, in Altoona, was occupied on September 30, 1902.

John N. Tillard was again appointed as Chief of Police of Altoona by Mayor Samuel M. Hoyer. During this term the force was increased to 38 patrolmen and the Bertillon system of criminal identification was established and fingerprinting identification with photography was adopted.

On April 6 Theodore W. Alleman was appointed Fire Chief.

On July 4 the Philippine Insurrection was declared at an end with the American forces in control.

1903 Jaffa Temple, Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, was founded.

Blair County Motor Club was organized.

The "Altoona Times" changed hands in 1903 and the company was formed with Charles A. Greer, William W. Murray and John A. Lauver as stockholders. The office was at 1226 11th Avenue.

On June 29 Co. E, 5th Inf., P. N. G., under Captain Elmer K. Rupp, was mustered into the service.

The Womens' Auxiliary of the Altoona Hospital was organized on June 3, 1903. They were Mrs. G. W. Creighton, President; Mrs. J. W. Nelson, Secretary, and Mrs. C. T. Witherow, Treasurer.

1904 Improved Order of Red Men, Orinoco Tribe No. 424, was founded.

The training school for nurses was established at the Altoona Hospital.

On April 1 H. C. Graybill was appointed regular Assistant Chief of the Fire Department.

1905 The present structure of the Second Baptist Church was erected.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church was founded.

The cornerstone was laid for the Third United Brethren Church.

Degree of Pocahontas, Winneperkett Council No. 69, was organized.

George Fox was appointed postmaster on March 1, 1905.

The "Altoona Times" moved into its own four-story building at 1113 11th Avenue. The officers of the company were: W. J. Heinsling,

President; M. R. Keesey, Vice-President; Bert Leopold, Secretary; William Hahman, treasurer.

The Altoona School Board purchased from the Jaggard Estate the original site of the present High School.

The nurses' home at the Altoona Hospital was constructed.

No. 3 Fire Station was completed and occupied for the first time.

This station was built at a cost of \$13,256.

1906 Altoona Y.W.C.A. was founded.

St. Stanislaus-Kostka Brotherhood was founded.

Mountain City Theatre was rebuilt and named the Lyric.

Mishler Theatre opened February 15, 1906.

Mishler Theatre destroyed by fire October 19, 1906.

1907 The Lyric Theatre burned down.

Eleventh Avenue Theatre was destroyed by fire on June 14, 1907.

The Mishler Theatre was reopened on January 21, 1907.

The present First Methodist Church was dedicated.

On June 13, 1907, the "Altoona Mirror" was incorporated under the name of the Mirror Printing Company.

1908 Altoona Hospital Nurses' Alumnae Association was founded.

The Altoona Male Chorus was organized.

The South Altoona Baptist Chapel was formed.

First Christian Science Sunday School was organized.

1909 Loyal Order of Moose, Altoona No. 74, was founded.

1910 Altoona Real Estate Board was founded.

St. Barnabas Mission, Altoona, was established.

American Red Cross, Blair County Chapter, was founded.

The Mercy Hospital was established in July of 1910 by interested physicians and laymen, who felt that another hospital was needed in Altoona, especially in the west end of the city. The hospital began in a private residence known as the McCaulley homestead purchased from M. V. Orner at a cost of \$10,000 with a capacity of seventeen beds. The board of trustees was composed of J. A. Elder, President; Robert Brupbacher, Secretary; I. W. Smith, Treasurer; A. Abelson, Dr. W. F. Beck, F. W. Beckman, W. J. Heinsling, S. A. Hite, W. S. Lee, J. C. McKerihan, Leonard Miller, M. V. Orner, William H. Orr, John Schenk and F. A. Winter, with H. A. Davis, Esq., as their counsel.

The Mercy Hospital School of Nursing was founded, its first course of training beginning July 14, 1910.

An Italian weekly newspaper, "L'Operaio Italiano," first published in Windber, moved to Altoona on January 22, 1910, with Michael S. Paretta and Giacomo Fusco as proprietors and G. Cesari as editor. October 3 to 9, 1910, Pennsylvania State Firemen's Association met in Altoona.

On January 1 Co. E, 5th Inf., P. N. G., under Captain Urban G. Keim, was redesignated Co. M, 10th Inf.

On January 1 Co. G, 10th Inf., Pennsylvania National Guard, under Captain John A. Woleslagle, succeeded Co. C, 5th Inf., under reorganization of the National Guard of Pennsylvania.

1911 Mercy Hospital Senior Auxiliary was founded.

Christian Science Society was founded.

In February of 1911, the Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church was founded, with Father Julius Langer as the first pastor.



Courtesy Brehman's Art Studio, Williamsburg
George Streit Building, Eleventh Street and Tenth Avenue. Destroyed by fire about 1896.



Courtesy Brehman's Art Studio, Williamsburg
The Central Hotel, located at Eleventh Avenue and Eleventh Street.
Destroyed by fire about 1896.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Altoona was given the status of a parish in 1911.

Father Michael Canole was appointed to organize St. Leo's parish on June 19, 1911.

- 1912** The Mirror Printing Company erected a building at 1000 Green Avenue and occupied it April 1, 1912.

The Mercy Hospital increased their bed capacity to twenty-four beds.

On February 12, Co. M, 10th Inf., P. N. G., under Captain Harry B. Wise, was disbanded.

- 1913** Italian-American Citizens' Society was founded.

Knights of Pythias, Altoona, No. 147, was founded.

Mutual Aid Society of Abruzzese, Gabrielle D'Annunzio, was founded.

Altoona Teachers' Institute was started.

The bed capacity of the Mercy Hospital was increased to twenty-seven.

Parcel post service in Altoona was established on January 1, 1913. Ellsworth Giles was appointed to the office of postmaster on May 20, 1913.

- 1914** Altoona Hospital Junior Auxiliary was founded.

Blair County Game, Fish and Forestry Association, Chief Logan Lodge, Riggle's Gap, was organized.

The bed capacity of the Mercy Hospital was increased to thirty-four by the addition of a third story to its building.

The dispensary of the Mercy Hospital was opened in the year 1914.

The "Altoona Gazette" was purchased by the "Altoona Tribune" company in 1914. The "Gazette" was issued as a penny newspaper.

On December 31 Provincial Headquarters Company, 10th Inf., P. N. G., was organized.

- 1915** Altoona Association of Life Underwriters was founded.

Mercy Hospital Nurses' Alumnae was founded.

State Charter was obtained for the Christian Science Organization.

The Grace Methodist Church was dedicated.

The Junior Auxiliary of the Altoona Hospital was organized.

- 1916** Mercy Hospital Junior Auxiliary was founded.

The Altoona Rotary Club was founded.

A fund was raised for the erection of a new building for the Mercy Hospital.

On July 2, Co. G, 10th Inf., Pennsylvania National Guard, under Captain John R. Dunkel, was mustered into Federal Service for duty on the Mexican border.

On October 12, Co. G, 10th Inf., United States National Guard, under Captain John R. Dunkel, returned from services on the Mexican border.

On October 14, Provincial Headquarters Company, 10th Inf., P. N. G., was reorganized and designated Headquarters Company, 10th Inf.

- 1917** Ground was broken for the new building of the Mercy Hospital on May 1, 1917. The new building was erected directly in front of the old, so that they now form one structure.

Ladies' Columbian Circle was founded.

Blair County Tennis Club was organized.

On January 15, Co. G, 10th Inf., United States National Guard, was mustered out of the Federal Service.

On April 6 war was declared between the United States and the German Imperial Government.

The first motorized ambulance was placed in service at the Altoona Hospital.

On May 8 Congress authorized the Regular Army to recruit to 287,000 men, the National Guard to 625,000, and the building of a National Army of one million members by means of a system of selective draft of men between ages of 21 and 31 through local draft boards.

On July 20, Co. G, 10th Inf., Pennsylvania National Guard, under Captain John R. Dunkel, was mustered into Federal Service for duty against the German Imperial Government.

On September 7, Co. G, 10th Inf., United States National Guard, entrained for Camp Hancock, Augusta, Georgia, and later was designated as Co. G, 110th Inf., 28th Division.

1918 American War Mothers, Altoona Chapter, was founded.

The Kiwanis Club, Altoona, was founded.

On November 11, Armistice was signed between the Allies and representatives of the German people.

1919 American Legion, Charles R. Rowan Post No. 228, was founded.

Altoona High School Glee Club organized.

On August 29, Post No. 235, American Legion, was chartered.

On September 12, James L. Noble Post No. 5, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, was chartered.

1920 Central Pennsylvania Bible Conference was founded.

Dames of Malta, Mt. Alto Sisterhood, No. 178, was founded.

Ladies' Oriental Shrine of North America, Jobel Court, No. 11, was founded.

League of Women Voters was founded.

Order of the Eastern Star, Altoona No. 290, was founded.

Altoona Art Institute was started.

Jaffa Chanters was organized January 25, 1920.

On January 1, 1920, the "Times" merged with the "Altoona Tribune" into a single morning newspaper, the "Times-Tribune," a new corporation, taking over both plants and buildings. Officers of the corporation were: President, Colonel Henry W. Shoemaker; Vice-Presidents, William Hahman and A. D. Houck; Secretary-Treasurer, Bert Leopold.

The Most Reverend John J. McCort, D.D., became Bishop of Altoona on October 22, 1920.

On April 6, Posts No. 228 and 235, American Legion, merged as the Charles R. Rowan Post No. 228. The Post was named in honor of the memory of Lt. Charles R. Rowan who served with Co. G, 110th Inf., 28th Division, and who died September 29, 1918, from wounds received in action.

On September 17, Admiral George Dewey Camp No. 86, United Spanish War Veterans, was chartered by veterans of the Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection and China Campaign, with George A. Brechbeil as Commander.

On November 29, Post 228, American Legion, was chartered.

- 1921** Altoona Education Association was founded.
 Altoona Works Choir was formed.
 Catholic Daughters of America Court Eugene A. Garvey, No. 652, was formed.
 Federation of Jewish Philanthropies was organized.
 Penn-Alto Hotel of Altoona was formally opened on September 8, 1921.
 On September 20, World War I veterans residing in Juniata Borough, now the 13th Ward, organized the Juniata's Soldier, Sailor and Marine Club, under a charter granted by the Blair County courts. The first commander was Bernard F. O'Connor.
 On October 30, Marshall Ferdinand Foch, the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces during World War I; and General John J. Pershing, Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces, stopped for a brief period at the railroad station.
 On December 26, the body of Lt. Charles R. Rowan arrived from France and was reburied in St. John's Cemetery with elaborate ceremonies.
 In January, 1921, the "Altoona Times" lost its identity as a newspaper, when Colonel Shoemaker purchased it for consolidation with the present "Altoona Tribune."
 The Altoona "Labor News" was published weekly by Herbert O. Kelley for two years. It was devoted chiefly to labor problems and labor news.
- 1922** Altoona Quota Club was founded.
 Child Welfare League was founded.
 Lions Club of Altoona was founded.
 Altoona Music Club was organized.
 Altoona High School Band was organized.
 Altoona High School Orchestra was organized.
 Blair County Republican Women's Club was organized.
 The "Unter Uns," a musical and entertainment society, located at Van Buren Avenue and 14th Street, was founded in January, 1922.
 On August 16, the Blair County Voiture No. 350, La Societe des Quarente Hommes et Huit Chevaux, was chartered.
 Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865, Clara Barton Tent No. 22, were organized in Altoona in June, 1922. Mrs. Maggie Erdley was named the first president. She was followed by Hattie Haines.
 J. Elvin Brumbaugh was appointed postmaster on February 20, 1922.
 A joint campaign, by the Altoona and Mercy Hospitals, raised \$215,000 under the leadership of Mr. Louis Bergman. The Altoona Hospital's portion of the funds was used for an addition to the Nurses' Home, and for this purpose the Pennsylvania Railroad Company donated additional ground.
 Radio Station WGAW was established in August, 1922, by Ernest C. Albright.
- 1923** Junior O. U. A. M., Altoona No. 370, was founded.
 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded.
 Altoona Symphony Orchestra was organized.
 Blair County Tuberculosis and Health Society was founded.

The Mercy Hospital School of Nursing was rated as an accredited training school by the state in 1923.

The Altoona Catholic High School at Sixth Avenue and Eleventh Street was completed on February 5, 1923.

Father Joseph Farran was commissioned to organize the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes on March 11, 1923.

- 1924** Cesare Battisti Society was founded.
Parent-Teacher Association, Altoona Council, was founded.
Holy Orthodox Hellenic Church of the Holy Trinity was established.
The Mirror Printing Company purchased the McGrath property adjoining the Mirror building and erected a new, larger building, which they occupied in the summer of 1924.
The Theodore Roosevelt Junior High School was opened in Altoona.
Addition to the Nurses' Home at the Altoona Hospital was completed.
Radio Station WFBG was established in August, 1924, when the William F. Gable Company purchased interest of Station WGAW from Ernest C. Albright, and is operated by the Gable Broadcasting Company.
- 1925** American Business Club, Altoona, was founded.
Assumption Chapel was founded.
Ohavei Yosher Synagogue was founded and built.
The present Talmud Torah at 1306 Seventeenth Street was dedicated.
- 1926** Altoona Catholic High School Alumni Association was founded.
Altoona High School Alumni Association was founded.
American War Mothers, Juniata Chapter, was founded.
White Shrine of Jerusalem, Jordan Shrine No. 24, was founded.
Schum Memorial was dedicated.
In 1926 another annex was added to the Mercy Hospital, increasing the capacity of the hospital to one hundred and eighty beds.
- 1927** Altoona Junior Band was organized.
St. Therese's was founded.
The Altoona Otterbein Church was dedicated.
Blairmont Country Club was organized.
Independent Sons of Italy, Rudolfo Valentino, No. 391, was founded.
- 1928** Altoona Civic Symphony, Inc., was founded.
Blair County Association of Fire and Casualty Agents was founded.
Blair County Children's Aid Society was founded.
Blair-Bedford Boy Scout Council was organized.
On November 12, Charles R. Rowan Post 228, American Legion, dedicated its home at 1123 Thirteenth Avenue.
Mansion Park was opened in Altoona.
- 1929** Women's International League for Peace and Freedom was founded.
The Little Theatre opened.
The Altoona Music Club ceased to exist.
Blair County Sheep and Wool Growers' Association was founded.
Business and Professional Women of Altoona was organized.
The annex to the Altoona High School Building was erected.
Schools of Juniata Borough, Wehnwood, East End, Pleasant Valley, and Allegheny Furnace were acquired by the Altoona School District by the annexation of the territory which they served.
D. S. Keith Junior High School was completed in Altoona.
- 1930** The First Evangelical Church was erected.
A. K. Memorial Baptist Church built its present structure at the corner of Bell Avenue and Seventh Street.
Blair County Federation of Democratic Women was founded.

- 1931** Disabled American Veterans, Altoona Chapter No. 34, was founded.
 Order of DeMolay, Al-Aksa Chapter, was founded.
 Alpha Iota Sorority, Beta Lambda Chapter, was organized.
 On June 11 Andrew Kern of Altoona razed the original part of the Logan House.
 On May 1 the Altoona Chapter No. 34, Disabled American Veterans of World War I, was chartered.
 A police record system was set up in Altoona under the direction of John F. Marshall. Prior to this time the police bureau maintained a scant record system.
 John N. Tillard, Chief of Police of Altoona, retired after 28 years of service.
 B. F. Miller was appointed Chief of Police of Altoona by Mayor John J. McMurray. Chief Miller was the only man who has filled every subordinate position within the police bureau.
- 1932** German-American Veterans' Society was founded.
- 1933** Altoona Engineering Society was founded.
 Altoona Girl Scout Council was founded.
 Ladies' Catholic Benevolent Association Senate was founded.
 Blair County Bankers' Association was founded.
 The present Federal Post Office Building in Altoona was occupied by the post office and other agencies of the government on March 1, 1933.
 Arthur B. Clark was appointed acting postmaster on June 20, 1933.
 The "Beacon," a publication of the Altoona Taxpayers' League, was issued from June 17, 1933, until late in 1935 as a publication of political content in Altoona. First editor was Charles S. Kniss.
 The "Altoona American," a weekly paper chiefly political, was founded July 16, 1933, by John A. DeRenzo. It is published twenty-five to thirty-five times yearly.
- 1934** Altoona Zionist Organization was founded.
 Penn State Alumni Association was founded.
 Altoona Vesper Choir was founded.
 Altoona Art Center was founded.
 Agudath Achim Sisterhood was founded.
 Arthur B. Clark was appointed to the office of postmaster on June 6, 1934.
 On September 8 the final meeting of the Lt. S. C. Potts Post No. 62, G. A. R., was held in the G. A. R. Hall, 911 Chestnut Avenue, and the charter surrendered.
 "The Register," Altoona edition, a Catholic weekly, became the official organ of the Altoona diocese in 1934.
- 1935** Altoona Community Chest was founded.
 Altoona Senior Story League was founded.
 Keystone Republican Club was founded.
 Women's Club of Altoona was founded.
 Blair County Federation of Fraternal Clubs was founded.
 Blair County Dental Society was founded.
 On May 1, 1935, the Mercy Hospital was taken over by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, an order of nursing Sisters. They, with a lay board of trustees, control the institution.
 On January 15 H. C. Graybill retired as Assistant Fire Chief.
- 1936** Junior Story League was founded.
 Cornerstone was laid for the St. Barnabas Mission.
 Alpha Iota Sorority, Altoona Alumnae Chapter, was organized.
 On May 13 T. W. Alleman, Fire Chief, died. He had served over 34 years, and saw the department transformed from horses to a completely motorized department.
 On July 1 Paul L. Amheiser was appointed Fire Chief.
 The Most Reverend Richard T. Guilfoyle, D. D., was installed as third Bishop of Altoona.

- 1937** Altoona Catholic Sorority was founded.
 Gideons' Organization was founded.
 Women's Republican Forum of Blair County was founded.
 Senior Hadassah was founded.
 Altoona Junior Band became the Pennsylvania Railroad Band.
 Altoona High School A Capella Choir was organized.
 The Altoona Hospital became an agency of the Altoona Community Chest.
- 1938** Catholic Charities, Inc., was founded.
 Blair County Federation of Women's Clubs was founded.
 Blair County Scottish Rite Club, Harrisburg Consistory, was founded.
 Blair County War Veterans' Council was founded.
 Paul V. Tillard was appointed acting postmaster on November 16, 1938.
 The new Nurses' Home of the Mercy Hospital was erected in 1938.
- 1939** Navy Mothers' Club, James E. VanZandt No. 77, was founded.
 Square and Compass Club was founded.
 Kiwanis Choir was organized.
 A. K. Memorial became the Bell Avenue Baptist Congregation.
 Blair County Humane Society was organized.
 Junior Service League of Altoona was formed.
 World War II began shortly after dawn on Friday, September 1, 1939.
 The Altoona Hospital joined the Blue Cross movement and affiliated with the Hospital Service Association of Pittsburgh.
 Temporary office of Pennsylvania State College Center opened in Y. M. C. A. building, Lexington Avenue and Ninth Street, Altoona, Pa. Citizens Advisory Committee began to raise \$5,000 fund to renovate Webster School Building on July 17, 1939.
 Pennsylvania State College Center occupied Webster building, Lexington Avenue and Tenth Street, Altoona, Pa., on August 4, 1939.
 Pennsylvania State College Center, Altoona, began its first semester with 119 students on September 20, 1939.
- 1940** Council of Social Agencies was founded.
 Junior Women's Club was founded.
 Order of the Rainbow for Girls, Altoona Assembly No. 14, was founded.
 Y. W. C. A. Chorus was organized.
 Organist Guild was organized.
 Paul V. Tillard was appointed to the office of postmaster on June 18, 1940.
 Radio Station WFBG became affiliated with the National Broadcasting Company in 1940.
 The first peace-time conscription ever held in America went into effect on October 29, 1940, when a drawing took place at Washington to determine the order in which the men of the United States, between the ages of 21 and 36, would be called for service in the armed forces.
 Office of Chief of Police of Altoona was dissolved by Mayor Charles Rhodes, and the office of Lieutenant of Personnel was created.
 First meeting of Advisory Board of Altoona Undergraduate Center of The Pennsylvania State College on February 25, 1940.
 Pennsylvania State College Center began second year of college classes on September 16, 1940, and occupied Madison Science building, Sixth Avenue and Seventh Street, Altoona, in addition to the Webster building.
 Sophomore year courses were added; student body numbered 187.
- 1941** Altoona Federation of Church Women was founded.
 Firemen held firemen's ball, the first since 1910.
 Third year of college classes begun by Pennsylvania State College Center, Altoona, on September 24, 1941.
 Four units of the Pennsylvania National Guard, utilizing the armory at Howard Avenue and Tenth Street, Altoona, as headquarters, were inducted on February 17, 1941, leaving Altoona by train on February 28 for Indiantown Gap, where they became part of the Twenty-eighth Divi-

sion. Colonel Albert O. King commanded the 110th Regiment, and the Altoona units and their commanders were as follows: Company G, under Captain Ira D. Keirn; Regimental Band under Captain Wilfred A. Morgan; Regimental Headquarters Company under Captain George T. R. Wicker; and 2nd Battalion Headquarters Company under 1st Lieutenant Raymond J. Price.

The Japanese had staged a sneak attack upon our fortifications and vessels in Pearl Harbor and the Hawaiian Islands on December 7, 1941. Declarations of war were made on December 8, 1941, between the United States and Japan; also between our nation and the Axis nations.

- 1942** Blair County Schoolmen's Association was founded.
Beta Sigma Phi, Gamma Chi, was organized.
Additional ground for the Altoona Hospital was purchased from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.
- 1943** Altoona Rifle and Pistol Club, Fort Roberdeau Ranges and Park, Sinking Valley, was founded.
Altoona Traffic Club was founded.
American War Mothers, George A. Wolf, Jr., Chapter, was founded.
Marine Corps League was founded.
Service Star Legion, Altoona Chapter, was founded.
In September a fifth floor was placed on the main building of the Altoona Hospital consisting of five modern operating rooms with auxiliary rooms and services. The lobby was modernized and a new library, lounge for doctors, and a record room was placed on the first floor. The new passenger elevator was installed and large sections of the hospital modernized.
- 1944** Youth Activities, Inc., was founded.
Sylvania Chorus was organized.
American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., was organized.
Civic Music Association of Blair County was organized.
The first women police officers were appointed in Altoona.
Veterans' Counseling office opened in Webster building of The Pennsylvania State College Center, Altoona, on September 18, 1944.
Pennsylvania State College Center opened Annie C. Wolf Dormitory for Girls, 1609 Thirteenth Street, Altoona, on October 10, 1944. Advisory Board of Altoona Undergraduate Center became non-profit corporation.
- 1945** Jewish War Veterans was founded.
Vaul E. Rouzer was appointed as Chief of Police of Altoona.
On April 12, 1945, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt passed away, having served the United States as President since March 4, 1933.
On the 8th day of May, 1945, we celebrated the unconditional surrender of Germany which ended one phase of World War II. The President, Harry S. Truman, at nine o'clock in the morning, broadcast to the nation the news of the victory in Europe. V-E Day was announced in Altoona by whistles and bells, and was observed by the closing of the schools and practically all places of business. Church services were held in the evening to offer up praises and thanks to God for the successful end of the war in Europe.
The Japanese surrendered to the United States on August 14, 1945.
- 1946** Announcement of option taken by Advisory Board of Altoona Undergraduate Center of Pennsylvania State College on Ivyside Park plot as new campus for local college on August 23, 1946.
Pennsylvania State College Center opened Fall Semester with use of Y. M. C. A. building, Lexington Avenue and Ninth Street, Altoona, in addition to the Madison building, Sixth Avenue and Seventh Street, and Webster building, Lexington Avenue and Tenth Street, on September 23, 1946. Enrollment, 610 students.

- 1947** Bell Telephone Chorus was organized.
In January the campaign for funds for building improvements of the Altoona Hospital raised over \$1,000,000. The contract was awarded on October 29 and the work was started on the new building.
Radio Station WJSW was established in February, 1947, Mutual Broadcasting Company affiliate. Operated by the Altoona Broadcasting Company.
Radio Station WRTA was established in June, 1947, American Broadcasting Company affiliate, and operated by Roy F. Thompson, and known as the Thompson Broadcasting Company.
Advisory Board of Altoona Center of Penn State took title to Ivyside Park tract of land on January 15, 1947, after collecting by public subscription, more than \$50,000. Plans were begun for remodeling Ivyside buildings for college use.
- 1948** Radio Station WVAM was established in June, 1948, Columbia Broadcasting Company affiliate, and operated by the General Broadcasting Company.
Pennsylvania State College Center, Altoona, occupied new campus and buildings at Ivyside Park on July 1, 1948. Center office was made area office to coordinate Pennsylvania State College activities in Blair, Cambria, Bedford, Huntingdon, Fulton and Somerset counties.
Pennsylvania State College Center, Altoona, began first classes at new campus, Ivyside Park, on September 27, 1948.
- 1949** Tenth anniversary of opening of Pennsylvania State College Center office in Altoona on July 17, 1949.
The capacity of the Mercy Hospital now is 387 beds, 54 bassinets, and 3 incubators.
The present Chief of Police of Altoona, Vaul E. Rouzer, has augmented the present-day personnel of the Bureau of Police to a total of 89 employees—83 officers and 6 civilian employees.
The present fire department is composed of Chief, Paul L. Amheiser; Assistant Chiefs, Samuel M. Ake and Ira E. Simpson; Inspector, Charles E. Morrison; Hoseman-Mechanic, Finley J. White, and a force of 91 men.

Our Sincere THANK YOU!

The Altoona Centennial Booklet Committee desires to thank all those who contributed photos and gave of their time and effort in furnishing data for this attractive and interesting historical publication.

CENTENNIAL BOOKLET COMMITTEE

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